

Change is coming
Race to be Korea's next president

Winter wonderland
8 Snowy scenes across the peninsula

Ho, Ho, hold the kimchi
Christmas dinner just like home

Groove is the No. 1 magazine for expats in Korea. Find out what's new, what's news and what there is to do.

GROOVE

KOREA • Issue 74 / December 2012

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INTO THE REAL KOREA

When Tony MacGregor's group of pilgrims trekked across the peninsula in search of personal discovery, they were greeted by acts of human kindness and pristine landscapes — becoming the first people to retrace the steps of the Korean monk Wonhyo in 1,300 years.

Artist's Journey
New column shares insights on Korea's art community

Leisure by landmines
Cyclist takes on border island of Baengnyeong

The season for giving
Expats raise funds for North Korean defectors



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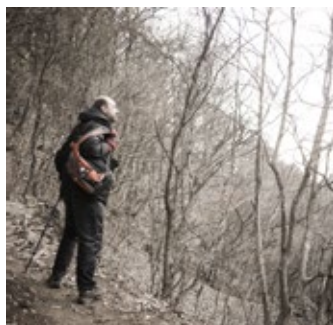


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Hotel specials

The meaningful winter of LOTTE HOTEL BUSAN & unicef

1. The first Warmth Period_2012.12.1 ~ 2013.2.28

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Christmas dinner à la Korea

➤ Many of us grew up eating holiday feasts made by our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, or maybe even uncles (mine has been deep-frying turkeys for Thanksgiving for the last few years). It's a tough time to be in Seoul. As good as a bowl of kimchi jjigae is, it just won't scratch that turkey itch.

Here are some options for Christmas dinner this year:

Eel feast. The early American settlers ate the hell out of some long fish during the holidays, apparently. In the New York Times last month, Drew Christie jokingly suggested replacing the turkey with eel as the staple holiday protein; little did he know it's a distinct possibility here. They do it in Italy, too, and you know the Italians can eat.

Roast bird. You might have a hard time finding a turkey in Seoul that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, but a nice fat chicken is a great replacement. Just rub it down with salt, pepper, rosemary and olive oil and pop it in the oven for an hour. Wait — you don't have an oven? Well, you could always braise the chicken (see this month's food section),

or stew it with some nice garlic, jujubes and ... ginseng. Darn. Samgyetang for Christmas again.

Wine. It doesn't really matter what you eat for Christmas dinner if you drink plenty of red wine beforehand. The only Christmas dinner I've ever had in Seoul was like that; people brought dishes, but ended up intoxicated, Seoul-style. Home-made eggnog is relatively easy to make, and a few glasses provide about the same nutritional value as a turkey dinner.

Night out. Lots of Seoul's finer restaurants will be serving holiday meals on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (see this month's food section). I recommend OKitchen in Itaewon. They serve a tasting menu every year, and if their normal tasting menu is any indication, it will be fresh, creative, seasonal and delicious. You might even get those eels I mentioned.

Nova Scotia lobster, fresh from the sea. Maritimers eat lobster for Christmas dinner, and you should, too. Get the bibs and butter ready, cause it's crustacean time. I'll be choosing this option; then again, I'll be in Nova Scotia for Christmas.

Whatever you choose for Christmas dinner this year, remember the important part: spend it with people you love — your friends (probably) and your family (if you're lucky). Also remember that even if you're not in the place you'd most like to be, you're still in a pretty good place. Westerners like to complain about not being able to find the foods they love most in Korea. Well, a hot bowl of pork stew, or a cast-iron slab of spicy chicken, or a seafood feast by the ocean are all good options, too. And remember, it doesn't get much better than napping on a heated floor on a cold winter's day, and that's something most people back home will never get to enjoy.

Enjoy eating, and enjoy life this Christmas season. 🍷

**Editorial by
Josh Foreman**

Food editor

Have something to say?
mattlamers@groovekorea.com

HOT ON:
WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM

Destinations:

Globe-trotting: Lessons learned

I thought that living abroad for the past six years, and traveling widely around Europe and Asia, would have prepared me for a yearlong trip around the world. Fifty days in, I have learned a thing or two about long-term travel; the first being that I was wrong about so many things.

Lesson No. 1: Choose your backpack (or travel bag) wisely. To say my relationship with my Osprey Farpoint 55 is contentious is an understatement. I foolishly thought that because I was backpacking around the world, I needed to buy a "backpacker's" backpack with matching daypack. I was wrong. Go with what is comfortable for you.

Lesson No. 2: Choose your travel partner wisely. (That is, if you intend to have a partner.) I knew I picked a winner when he humored me (and my food poisoning issues) throughout our trek in Sapa, Vietnam.

Lesson No. 3: Don't leave your first aid kit behind while you're trekking days away from modern medicine. I knew I had put some meds in my daypack, assuming some of it was Imodium. Wrong. It was all Claritin, and I was in trouble.

Story by Jamie Keener

Read it online in December
or in print in January.

Fitness:

Crush your workouts

The New York Giants and the Denver Broncos do yoga, but in case you think football is a soft sport, know that the Toronto Maple Leafs also practice. These are some pretty hard-core athletes, but I know it can be hard to see how deep breathing and awkward stretches can improve your performance.

There's more to it than that.

Most people know that improving their flexibility can help alleviate aches and pains that accumulate as the result of sedentary living. But while it is well known for its benefits to flexibility and mobility, yoga is about much more than simply stretching. Yoga, as a practice, trains the mind and body to relax muscles at the right times, rather than hold constant tension. The mindfulness you practice in yoga translates to more precise movement, even when you don't have the luxury of being fully present. It develops fine-tuned, whole-body coordination that enables you to get the most out of your body and performance in sports and life. We recommend four places to practice yoga in Seoul.

Story by Khaled Allen

Read it online in December
or in print in January.

Community:

Music makes the event

A small idea turned into a big success when Emma Kalka teamed up with Hannah Kamau in the hopes of melding music and charity to raise awareness about social issues.

Kalka is now the lead organizer of Clash, a regular concert with the slogan, "Two worlds collide for the greater good." The goal is to raise money for various causes and bring the expat and Korean communities together.

Held every three months, the event features music by a variety of local Korean and expat hip-hop and indie rock bands, including Young Blood, The Guten Birds, DA Green featuring 20 Minutes, Saul Goode and Dongmyo Police Box. The first concert raised funds for the Korean Unwed Mothers' Families Association, which advocates for the rights of single, unwed mothers and their children.

The Clash event this month will raise money for Justice for North Korea, which helps North Korean refugees in South Korea and other countries, and also funds shelters in China. Clash 4.0 is set for Jan. 26 at Club Freebird in Hongdae, Seoul.

Story by Jamie Keener

Read it online in December
or in print in January.



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MADRID

1846

Connecting Communities

Introducing some of the editors, writers and photographers behind December's issue.



Jamie Keener
U.S.

Jamie has a passion for arts and writing. With a profound theater background from Austin, Texas, and dabbling in the expat theater community scene in Seoul, she's currently pursuing her master's in creative writing. She hopes to fill her time in Seoul teaching and learning about Korea's culture. She loves movies, reading fiction, traveling, food and wine. Jamie is an intern at Groove Korea.

Jenna Davis
U.S.

Jenna is a writer and teacher living in Gangnam, Seoul. She escaped to Korea in 2011 after a brief but painful stint in the insurance industry. Jenna moved to Bangkok for a few months this summer but couldn't stay away from Seoul for long. When not working, Jenna likes hiking, picnicking in the park and getting lost in Seoul. She is a regular contributor to our Food & Drink section.



Paloma Julian
Spain

Paloma is a coach, teacher and ambassador of Spanish food. Every month, she enlightens readers on some new facet of Spanish cooking. She can whip up tortillas with eggs and potatoes, but she'll also have chorizo, Manchego and wine on hand. When not cooking, she's coaching high school girls' basketball, teaching Spanish or listening to scary podcasts. Paloma contributes the monthly Squid Ink recipe column.



Belle Nachmann
Australia

Belle is a photography enthusiast from Melbourne, Australia, where she was working for the federal government as a fraud investigator. When she got bored of being a suit in the corporate world she decided to come teach kids in Korea. She is also working on launching her own travel/photography website. Belle contributed "Korea's winter wonderland" to this month's issue.



Dean Crawford
U.K.

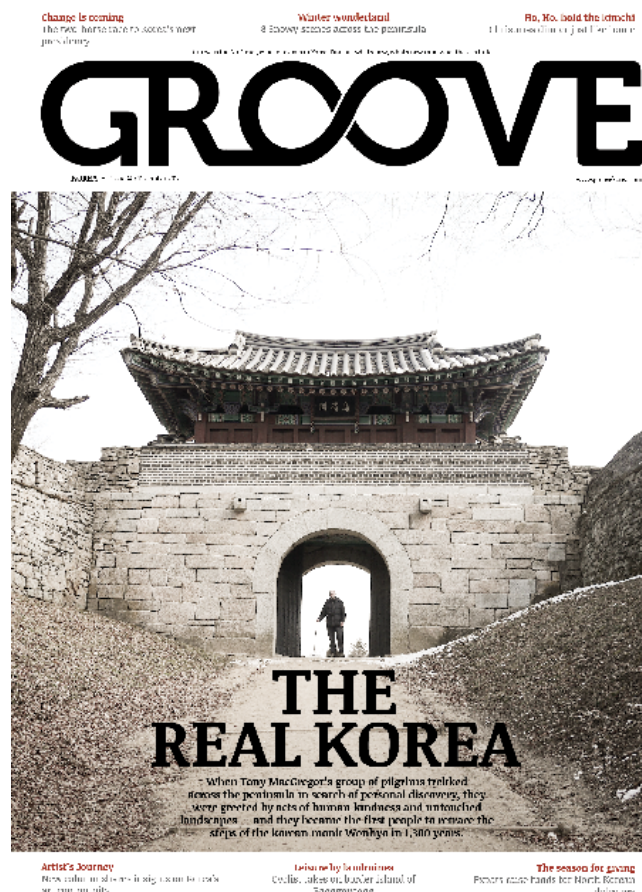
Dean watches a lot of films, which, roughly translated, means he's a bit of a geek and spends a lot of time in dark rooms. He's from London, where he worked in the film industry, spending time on the sets of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" and "X-Men: First Class," among others. He is currently based in Jeonju. Dean contributes the monthly Korean DVD Corner and At the Box Office columns.



On the cover: Korean pilgrimage

When Tony MacGregor and his group of pilgrims embarked on a trek across the peninsula, they inadvertently discovered the "real Korea" — and they became the first people to retrace the steps of the famous monk Wonhyo in 1,300 years.

See the full story on Page 36



Artist's Journey
Belle takes us to the heart of the country's culture.

Travelling by train
Cecilia takes us to the heart of the country's culture.

The season for young
Peters takes us to the heart of the country's culture.

Cover photo by Christopher McCarthy / Design by Daniel Sanchez

Our past three issues:



November 2012
Japan's shame, Pyongyang International Film Festival, chasing autumn, veg 101



October 2012
My Korean identity, tranquility in Gyeongju, on the trail of shamans, McCurry interview



September 2012
Eat Your Kimchi, the Korean Wave, Korea's dying markets, eclectic eats

Check out past issues at
www.groovekorea.com

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11:00 ~ 11:10 Opening Ceremony
11:15 ~ 11:20 Warming Up
11:20 ~ 12:00 Polar Bear Swim

※Schedules are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Must Reads

Korea's winter wonderland

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Groove Korea has found six of the best lensmen in the country who have braved the snow and sub-zero temperatures to share unforgettable snowy destinations around the Republic of Korea.



Leisure cycling at a Korean flash point

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Baengnyeong Island — just 13 kilometers from North Korea — has stretches of road along the ocean, but most of the rocky cliffs are kept at a distance by pine forests, barbed wire fences and landmines. Matthew C. Crawford cycles through a junction of regional tensions.



The pilgrimage diaries

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When Tony MacGregor and his group of pilgrims embarked on a trek across the peninsula, they inadvertently discovered the "real Korea." They also became the first people to retrace the steps of the famous monk Wonhyo in 1,300 years.



Koreans choose their future

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Groove sits down with Koreans from across the political spectrum to talk about politics and the problems facing the country. There is also a rundown of the candidates vying for Korea's top office and an interview with Prof. Gregg A. Brazinsky.



Trying harder for better fish 'n' chips'

Page 74

Disgusted by sub-par fish 'n' chips in their native England and driven by hallucination, two young men headed to Seoul about a year ago to dish out the most famous dish of their native land — the right way.



Christmas dinners in Seoul

Page 72

Groove Korea teamed up with SunnySmartShopping to bring you a list of Seoul's best holiday dinners. From your classic turkey and fixings to oakwood smoked salmon and Australian beef, there's something on this list for all price levels.



Groove's Inbox

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts on a Groove article: Did you love it? Did it suck? Are you planning a charity concert and want to spread the word?

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◆ **Re: Capturing Korea - Waon Beach**

These are some beautiful pictures by Mr. Mark Eaton. Kudos. I just love this series you have every month -- Capturing Korea -- because it gets beneath the surface of the generic, pretty Korea that the tour companies will show you. There are so many places like this in South Jeolla Province and elsewhere.

— Lee

◆ **Re: My 3 years a sex slave for Japan**

That was a haunting piece and my heart goes out to her, and all the victims of that period. I didn't know the Japanese government has avoided responsibility for all these years. Hopefully the few women that remain alive get justice before they pass on.

—Jared Owen

◆ **Re: Japan's shame: Comfort women await justice**

Thank you Groove Korea magazine for writing about the comfort women issue. It was brave and conscientious of you to dedicate your front cover to this controversial issue. You have me interested in this issue again.

— Kim Min-woo

◆ **Re: Japan's shame: Comfort women await justice**

So exactly who should apologize to whom? Is a distant indirect apology even meaningful?

— Christopher



Opinion@groovekorea.com

◆ I'm a long-term resident in South Korea, and a frequently entertained lurker at your website. I have written a little book about South Korea, a humble amazon upload. "Korean Straight Lines, joke lessons in South Korea" is a short, humorously intended little introduction to a few aspects of life in Korea, including some tips on language and everyday culture.

— NB Armstrong

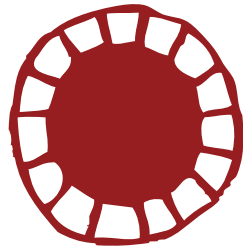
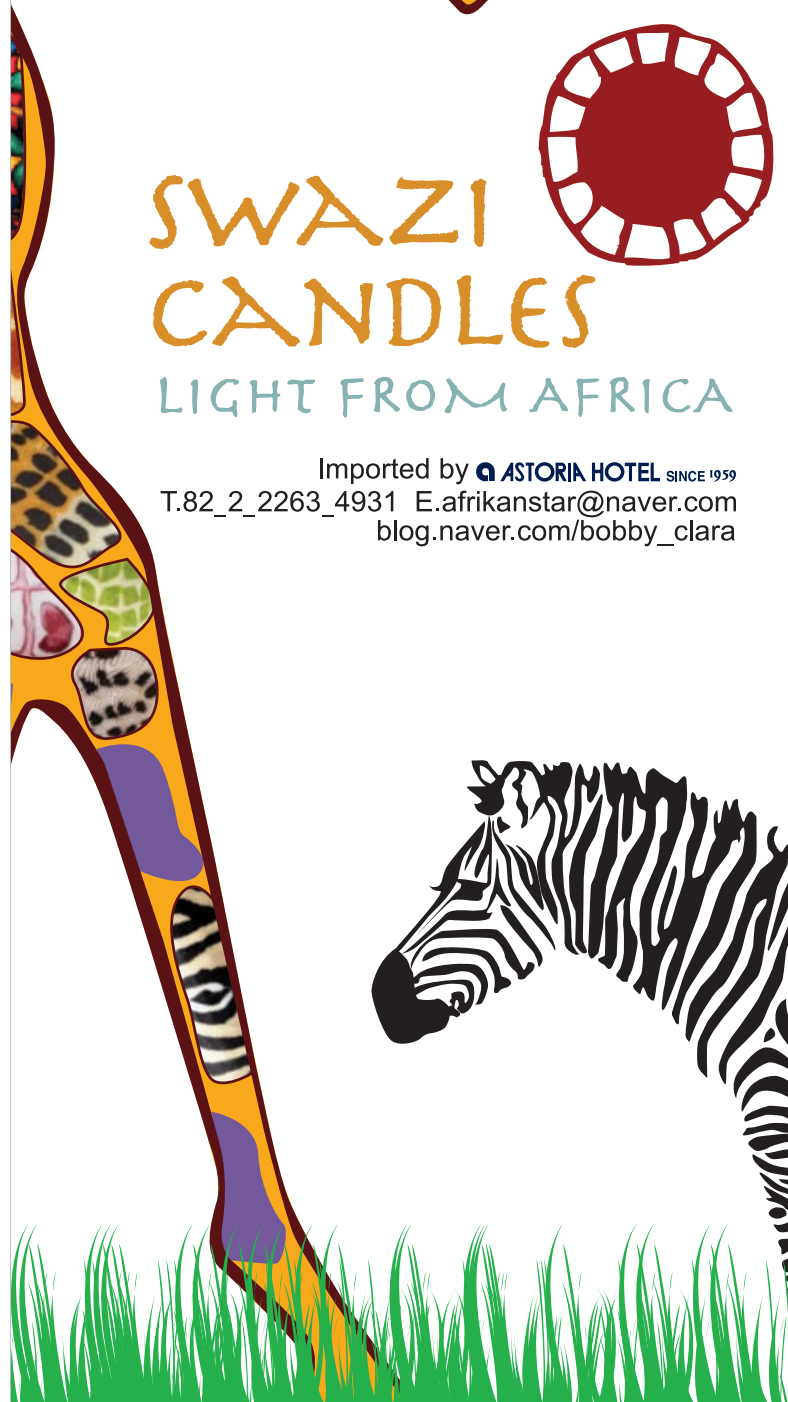


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— Tony Medina



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KOREA BEAT

NATIONAL NEWS

All stories translated by Nathan Schwartzman at www.koreabeat.com and edited by Groove Korea for length and clarity.
The opinions expressed here do not represent those of Groove Korea. — Ed.

Korean man beaten senseless, robbed by police in Greece

➤ A Korean man claims he was assaulted, robbed and racially targeted by police officers while on holiday in Greece, igniting anger and debate in Korean media and online forums.

The man remains in Greece seeking justice and refuses to leave until the officers who attacked him and their superiors are punished.

The man, known in the media only as "Mr. A," posted the outrageous story of his trip to Greece to an Internet portal site. This is how he told it: At approximately 7 p.m. he was on a street in Athens when he heard a man telling him to stop. His first thought was that it was a merchant or swindler. The man was actually a plainclothes police officer. The officer was with other officers, who demanded to see the man's identification. However, he thought they might be imposters attempting to con him, so he asked to see their badges.

"I thought they might have been con men wearing police clothes. They had T-shirts saying 'Police' in English," he wrote. One of the officers whom he had requested identification from punched him in the head. "I thought something was wrong with this situation," he wrote.

He cried for help, but the other two officers also beat him by repeatedly punching and kicking his face and stomach. It ended when one officer stole his wallet as he lay in a bloody mess on the ground. "Why did you hit me?" he asked them, adding, "I didn't know you were police. I'm sorry." Then the beating resumed. "While they were beating me I saw their guns and even thought that if I made a mistake they would shoot and kill me."

The attack continued at the police station. After they released him he asked where the exit to the street was. "Korean, go home" was one officer's reply.

"Actually the worst thing of all, worse than the beating,

was when they used those racist words. It was extremely deep racism," he said.

Once released, the man went straight to the embassy for help. Embassy staff then brought him to the police station to protest the unmotivated attack, but the police refused to talk, evading all questions from embassy employees.

"If I cannot track down those two police officers I will not leave Greece until their superiors are punished," he said. "Employees of our consulate said they had never experienced such a difficult situation. I want our government to protest, too."

It didn't take long for his story to go viral after he posted it online. His post received over 30,000 views and 230 replies within 12 hours of being uploaded. Many others shared their horror stories of traveling in other countries.

Korean netizens are furious. "Greece is in chaos now. In Korea if such a thing happened the President would come out and apologize; it would be a huge story. The Greek police should do the same," one person posted.

Another wrote: "Greece promotes itself to the world for tourism and then its police use violence and racist language. This country should be forgotten."

An official with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said the agency is looking into the incident. "We are aware of the incident and are investigating the circumstances." 🇰🇷

After CSAT exam, students exhale

➤ The 2013 state-administered annual college entrance exam that was administered last month appears to have been more difficult than last year's.

The College Scholastic Ability Test is considered the most important test of a Korean student's life. It is the most important factor in determining applicants' placements in universities. The test is so important that the government imposes measures to reduce noise and traffic near the 1,200 test centers. Planes are grounded, traffic is stopped, and there is even an emergency hotline where students can request free transportation in a police vehicle to the test site.

Just over 650,000 high school students and graduates took the CSAT on Nov. 8.

According to the test preparation company Megastudy, the CSAT was harder this year than in 2011. It estimated cut-off scores for each section of the 2013 CSAT and found that the cut-off score for the first level in language is 98, which is four points higher than last year, with the cut-off in the math section being 92, three points higher than last year's. 🇰🇷

In Brief

Police looking for Uzbek purse snatcher

Police in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, are seeking an arrest warrant for 36-year-old "Mr. A," of Uzbekistan, who is accused of stealing a purse that was left on a seat at a women's clothing store.

Police say that the man was in a women's clothing store in the Uichang-gu area of Changwon at approximately 3:05 p.m.

and stole a handbag containing 240,000 won, which had been left on a chair by a shopper, 43-year-old "Ms. B."

He is accused of two other thefts, bringing the total to 2.94 million won.

Police are continuing to investigate to see if the Uzbek man might be responsible for more crimes.

Korean Human Rights Commission produces its own movie

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea screened its film, "Juvenile Offender," last month in Seoul.

In Korea, juvenile offenders are between 14 and 19 years of age.

Actor-director Kang Yi-gwan spent four months conducting research at the Seoul Youth Rehabilitation Center in preparation

for the film, which is based on the discrimination that occurs against people with criminal records.

The Ministry of Justice aided in the production of the film, as did the Seoul Youth Rehabilitation Center and the Seoul Probation and Parole Office.

Japanese professors treated to hookers, booze on Korean 'culture exchange'

➤ A parent of a Japanese student who visited Korea as part of an international cultural exchange festival has accused two hosting Incheon University professors of forcing their Japanese colleagues to visit a prostitution-related establishment to drink and sing with women.

Six members of Incheon City Council's administration and planning committee, the body responsible for overseeing the operation of Incheon University, received an e-mail addressed "To the members of the Incheon City Council" from the Japanese "parent of a student at Fukuoka University." The email outlined the alleged infractions of the university-funded trip, which occurred in August.

"I thought this letter I suddenly received was so upsetting, it has really made me angry," said one committee member.

The two Japanese professors and 20 of their business students attended the international cultural exchange festival. In the email, the parent wrote that "these children participating in the festival said they had 'realized their hopes for sex.'"

The email went on to state that: "These Incheon University professors, do they not understand the meaning of 'entertainment'? Their actions are not befitting an adult, are not fit for diplomacy, and I think were an insult to these Japanese people."

It continued, "In Korea, should public funds be used so casually? In Japan such a thing would never happen; it would be illegal. Logically and ethically, this was absolutely unacceptable."

The parent ended the email by saying, "In the future, for proper exchange, for Incheon University, and above everything, for the children, I ask that you deal forthrightly with this issue without letting it fade away."

Incheon University said in response that: "The professors involved participated in the unusual entertainment individually and not as part of the school's public festival, and the fees were paid not out of public funds but on personal credit cards ... however, in the future when there are exchange events with foreign universities we will take extra care that such things do not happen."

Pakistani activist wins asylum in Korea

➤ The Seoul Administrative Courts' 12th division overturned the deportation order of a trial court, effectively granting a Pakistani man refugee status. The court ordered the Immigration Service to recognize his status as a refugee.

The court wrote that "Mr. K established that he has a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of ethnicity or political viewpoint." The court continued, "It must be concluded that there is a likelihood of persecution in Pakistan."

The man is only known as "Mr. K" in the media.

Mr. K has been active in the independence group Baloch National Movement since 1995, was shot by secret police in 2007, and entered Korea using a passport with a false name in order to escape his government's watchful eyes. He was caught with the false passport and placed in immigration detention in Yeosu, where he filed the lawsuit for refugee status.

The court recognized that the man illegally gained

entry into Korea with a false passport due to fears of persecution. "He did so to ensure his safety in leaving Pakistan," the court said.

The man hails from the Baluchistan region of Pakistan, which has a high population of Baloch people, a minority group originally from Iran. There has been an independence movement for over 60 years, and in the summer of 2008 over 100 people were killed, 250 disappeared and another 20,000 were forcibly relocated by the government.

According to the Ministry of Justice, through September of this year 4,835 people had, like Mr. K, sought refugee status in Korea to avoid persecution in their home countries. There were 43 such cases in 2000 and 423 in 2010. That rose to 1,011 last year.

"The increasing number of applications for refugee status appears to be due to increased global troubles in war-stricken areas and so on," said Shin Hye-in, a public information officer in Korea for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Korea is generally a transit country rather than a final destination, so increases are occurring in more than just Korea."

Korea grants very few people refugee status. In total, only 299 have ever been granted refugee status here by either the Ministry of Justice or the Seoul Administrative Courts. That's about 6 percent of all applicants.

Of last year's 1,011 applications, just 4.1 percent, or 42, were granted.

Opinion: The historic consequence of this election

Influence on North Korea can be created only through deepened interdependence in which mistrust is turned into mutual confidence and the two nations communicate and cooperate, rather than regard each other as enemies.

Between the cooperation and conflict of the U.S.-China relationship, someone must be able to step in and build a three-way

partnership with Barack Obama and Xi Jinping to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. That someone could be either of Korea's two candidates for president this December — or it could be neither of them.

Whoever it is, and whenever that leader arrives, must set the goals of solving the North Korean nuclear problem, normalizing relations between North Korea and the

U.S./Japan, building peace on the Korean Peninsula, and establishing multilateral agreements among the Northeast Asian nations.

Since December of 2008, the six-party talks have been suspended. They must be resumed. However, to accomplish this, there must be considerable improvement in the North-South relationship.

Who can start the virtuous cycle of peace and coexistence?

In the presidential election this month, we must select a candidate with such vision and ability. That is the historic consequence this election holds for all Koreans living in a divided land.

EVENTS

December 1st - December 31th

1 - Saturday

Concert: Rubber Seoul @ Club FF, Club TA, Gogos2, Freebird, and DGBD; korea@littletravellers.net.

Workshop: Self-publish Your E-book Workshop @ Solbridge International University, Daejeon; 2 pm; chrisinsouthkorea@gmail.com

Ski: Join Wow-coreatour to Yangji Pine/ Jisan resort; wowcoreatour.com

2 - Sunday

Christmas concert: Traditional Swedish Christmas carols @ Seoul Club, Hallasan Hall; 1 pm; hedvig.lundenweld-en@gmail.com

Tour: Royal Asiatic Society excursion to Gakwon and Magok temples; 58,000 won, 8 am; raskb.com

Happy Hour: 20% off bottles of wine @ DoJo (Sundays)

3 - Monday

Ski resort opening: Konjiam Resort in Gwangju; konjiam-resort.co.kr/krs/en

Ski resort opening: Sajo Resort in Chungju; www.sajoresort.co.kr

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com

4 - Tuesday

Food: 2 For 1 fish & chips @ Wolfhound (Tuesdays); wolfhoundpub.com

Christmas event: Mom's & Tots group visit the annual Millennium Hilton's Christmas Train; 1030 am; siwapage.com

Food: happy hour @ Big Rock in Gangnam; 1 free beer with burger or fish & chips

5 - Wednesday

Christmas event: Seoul International Women's Association holiday brunch @ Grand Ambassador Hotel; 1030 am; siwapage.com

Concert: Sting @ Olympic Park Gymnastics Gymnasium; 8 pm; www.olympicpark.co.kr

6 - Thursday

Christmas event: British Association's Christmas lunch @ Namsan III room, Grand Hyatt; 1130 am; events@britishseoul.com

Social: Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC (Thursdays); (02) 749-8202

7 - Friday

Musical: Phantom of the Opera opens 2 months run; http://ticket.interpark.com/

Girls night: 2-for1 drinks for girls @ DoJo



Read story on page 71

8 - Saturday

Christmas event: 5th annual Seoul Santacon @ Beer O'Clock in Sincheon; 6 pm

Concert: Angry Bear, Love X Stereo, Rocket Diary etc @ POWWOW in Noksapyeong; 7:30 pm

Tour: Royal Asiatic Society shopping spree tour; 49,000 won, 1030 am; raskb.com

December events: See Groove Korea's Facebook page for a full list of things to do @ Facebook.com/groovekorea

9 - Sunday

Food: Sunday Roast @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong; craftworkstaphouse.com

Concert: Ryuichi Sakamoto Trio @ Sejong Center for the Performing Arts; 4 & 8 pm; www.sejongpac.or.kr

15 - Saturday

Fundraiser: Justice for North Korea Fundraiser @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; 8pm; rescuenorthkorea@gmail.com

Fundraiser: PSCORE charity event @ Club Freebird in Hongdae; 8 pm; www.PSCORE.org

10 - Monday

Food: Wing Night @ Big Rock in Gangnam; 500 won/wing; bigrock-beer.co.kr

Musical: Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida @ D-Cube Art Center, Sindorim; Dec 2-23; http://theater.ticketlink.co.kr

16 - Sunday

Musical: Nanta in Myeongdong @ Myeongdong Art Center; through Dec. 31; www.nanta.co.kr

Self-help: AA meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; 5 p.m.

11 - Tuesday

Food: Wing night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; 3alleypub.com

Network: Seoul International Women's Association welcoming meeting @ Seoul Global Cultural Center; 1030am; siwapage.com

17 - Monday

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com

Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaewon (Mondays); tonysitaewon.com

12 Wednesday

Concert: Macy Gray @ AX-Korea; Gwangnamu station, Exit 2; from 99,000 won; ax-korea.com

Happy hour: Teachers' night @ Big Rock in Gangnam; 1 free cocktail for teachers

13 - Thursday

Box office: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey opens nationwide

Network: American Women's Club hosts holiday lunch with live music and a raffle @ Rooftop Atrium, Renaissance Hotel; anna.awc.korea@gmail

13 - Thursday

Box office: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey opens nationwide

Network: American Women's Club hosts holiday lunch with live music and a raffle @ Rooftop Atrium, Renaissance Hotel; anna.awc.korea@gmail

14 - Friday

Skating: Ice rink @ Seoul Plaza opens to public; 10am-10pm; 1,000 won/hour

Festival: Boseong Green Tea Plantation Light Festival @ Jeollanam-do; Dec 14-Jan 27; boseong.go.kr



Read story on page 72

For suggestions or comments,
email calendar@groovekorea.com

*All the events published in this calendar are subject to unforeseen changes by the promoters. Groove Korea does not take responsibility for any misunderstandings or third party damage.

18 - Tuesday

Beer: Beer buffet @ 200 Bran Hauns; 9,900 won; Mon, Thurs, Sun at 5 pm; (02) 3481-9062

Happy Hour: 2,000 won off martinis (all night) @ DOJO in Itaewon

Food: Pasta night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Tuesdays); <http://craftworkstaphouse.com>

19 Wednesday

Social: Standup comedy (Wednesdays) @ Tony's in Itaewon; tonysitae-won.com

Food: Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon; (02) 749-1659

Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink @ Beer Garden. Renaissance Hotel; 6-9 pm (every day); (02) 2222-8630

20 - Thursday

Box office: Les Misérables opens nationwide

Social: Quiz night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; winbeer.com

Beer: Men's night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Thursdays); 2,000 won off single malts and 1,000 won off all beers

21 - Friday

Christmas concert: The Nutcracker @ Universal Art Center; Dec. 21-31; ticket.interpark.com

Beer: All-you-can-drink beer @ Ssada! Maeck Ju in Hongdae; 8,000 won (every day); (02) 3141-7011

22 - Saturday

Christmas theater: "SantaLand Diaries" @ White Box Theatre, near Hyochang Park Station; Dec 21-23; probationary-theatre@gmail.com

Beer: All-you-can-drink beer @ Pho Mons in Gangnam; 4,900 won for 2 hours (every day); (02) 514-0513

23 - Sunday

Christmas concert: Lee Seung-chul Christmas Concert Rock 'n Roll Tree @ Coex Convention Hall; Dec 21-24; ticket.interpark.com

Food: Sunday Buffet Brunch @ Big Rock in Gangnam; 11,000 won; bigrockbeer.co.kr

24 - Monday

Christmas concert: Ronn Branton's Christmas Eve Jazz Concert @ Changecheon Arts Hall; whomre@kornet.net

Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630



Read story on page 70

25 - Tuesday

Food: For a full list of Christmas dinners, see our Food & Drink section.

Exhibit: Tim Burton exhibition @ Seoul Museum of Art; through April 14

To do: See Groove Korea's Facebook page for a full list of things to do @ facebook.com/groovekorea

Don't do: palace and museums will be closed on Christmas Day

26 Wednesday

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); <http://craftworkstaphouse.com>

Social: Trivia night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon

Hockey: Asia Hockey League: Seoul High1 vs. Beijing Dragon @ Chuncheon; 7 pm; www.alhockey.com

Happy Hour: 3,000 won off JD, Finlanda vodka @ DOJO in Itaewon

27 - Thursday

Happy hour: 2-for-1 Big Rock beer @ Big Rock in Gangnam; 5-8 pm

Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays); <http://craftworkstaphouse.com>

Festival: Seoul Photo Festival @ museums and galleries throughout Seoul; through Dec. 30; www.seoulphotofestival.com

Happy hour: if it rains or snows any day of the month, get free 2nd round @ Big Rock in Gangnam

28 - Friday

Classical: Disney on Classic; Dec 28-29; <http://ticket.interpark.com/Global>

Skating: Ice rink @ Seoul Plaza is open throughout the winter to public; 10am-10pm; 1,000 won/hour

Happy Hour: 2,000 won off beer/wine @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong; 4-6 pm; craftworkstaphouse.com

Concert: Patti Kim @ Goyang Aram Nuri Arts Center,

29 - Saturday

Concert: Crying Nut, Rux, The RockTigers @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 7 pm



Read story on page 88

30 - Sunday

Music: Brian McKnight @ AX-Korea in Seoul; 8 pm; <http://ax-korea.co.kr>

31 - Saturday

New Year: See Groove Korea's 10 places to party on New Year @ facebook.com/groovekorea

CRANE vs. EAGLE

Differences between the American and Korean political systems

Interview with Gregg A. Brazinsky, Korea specialist
and associate professor at George Washington University

Interview by Emanuel Pastreich / Illustrations by Adela Ordoñez



➤ With a five-year cycle in one and a four-year cycle in the other, it's rare for presidential elections in Korea and the U.S. to coincide. But the nearly simultaneous elections that are happening within six weeks of each other in November and December provide an interesting opportunity to compare how the political systems work in the two countries.

For the political junkies among us, the differences are already becoming stark. The Korean presidential race is converging towards the center, while the political situation in the U.S. is becoming increasingly polarized. Moreover, the popularity, and short-lived presidential

candidacy, of software entrepreneur and Seoul National University professor Ahn Chul-soo is something that is hard to imagine in the U.S., where third-party candidates seldom gain traction among the electorate.

Emanuel Pastreich, a professor of humanities at Kyung Hee University and founder of the Seoul-based Asia Institute, recently interviewed Gregg A. Brazinsky, a Korea specialist and an associate professor of history and international affairs at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., about the similarities and differences in politics between Korea and the United States.

There are more regulations in Korea that keep political parties from using such large amounts of money to influence the election through advertising. You cannot run political ads at all in Korea.

Ed. note — This interview was conducted before candidate Ahn Chul-soo dropped out of the race in November. His short-lived campaign altered the race, but whether it altered history is yet to be determined.

Emanuel Pastreich: It is amazing to me just how un-political Ahn Chul-soo is in his activities. He is not at all ready as a personality to kiss babies and whip up an audience into great enthusiasm, or shake a thousand hands in a massive crowd. He seems totally wrong as a traditional politician. And he also does not like to talk much. Moreover, there seems to be enthusiasm for him for exactly that reason. I cannot think of anyone like him in the United States.

Gregg Brazinsky: But for that matter, Park Geun-hye (the ruling conservative Saenuri Party's presidential candidate and daughter of late Korean dictator Park Chung-hee) also does not like to talk all that much either. We are seeing a move away from the previous generation of politics. (Former Presidents) Kim Dae-jung (1998-2003) and Kim Young-sam (1993-1998) were politicians to the core. They knew how to make the speech and get the crowd excited. Part of Ahn's appeal is that he just does not seem political. To some degree that may be Park Geun-hye's appeal as well.

People are tired of those slick politicians. That lack of polish is interpreted in Korea as accessibility, as honesty in Ahn. Perhaps to a degree that would be difficult in the United States.

Ahn can take this approach in deciding to run because the requirements in Korea are different.

In the case of the United States you need an enormous budget to pay for TV ads for publicity for the entire campaign on a massive scale — now up to \$1 billion — to run for president. There are not those sorts of overhead expenses in Korea and it is possible to start up a campaign in a short amount of time. There are also more regulations in Korea that keep political parties from using such large amounts of money to influence the election through advertising. You cannot run political ads at all in Korea. In Korea, there is a smaller audience to appeal to; there are only 50 million Koreans, after all. It is a smaller territory and more homogenous.

Ultimately, it would be difficult for someone from Ahn's background to govern in several key respects, but easier in Korea than in the United States. Woodrow Wilson was president of Princeton, but otherwise professors do not become presidents, and rarely Cabinet members, in the United States.

So let us talk about political parties. It seems like this situation is only possible because of the nature of political parties in Korea. There appears to be something going on here that we do not see in the United States.

In the United States, there are some clear structural barriers to suddenly making oneself felt in party politics, especially for third-party candidates. There is a need for a lot of money. That is a high bar in politics and it keeps out third-party candidates.

There is now a very low level of confidence in political parties in Korea, perhaps a historic low.

In the United States as well there is now a very low level of trust in the parties, but the United States' lack of faith in existing parties has not translated into support for an independent candidate, at least when it comes to the current presidential election.

In Korea, there are parties with long-term institutions, but those parties are less about ideals; instead the party coalesces around an individual and his vision. So it is possible to break away from parties and also to start them, or rename them, more easily.

So if one person says, "I am going to break away and form my own party," it is possible to do so because loyalty is as much to people as it is to party. It is a significant difference in political culture between the United States and Korea.

Loyalty to party, rather than to an individual, is powerful in the United States. That is not to say the political system in Korea is better or worse than that in the United States; they are different in nature.

In South Korea, you have a constantly shifting set of political alliances. In the United States, the political system is quite established and consistent. In Korea, parties are constantly splitting and reforming. Parties collapse, are renamed and move in new directions.



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In the United States, there is considerable discipline in the political parties, and partisanship is very strong. It is hard, and getting harder, to make deals between parties, or between rival politicians in rival parties.

I think one important difference is that in the U.S. a president can be reelected, so during the first term in office they have to keep a much closer eye on how their policies are received by the electorate. (Korean presidents are elected for a single five-year term). This is an important difference in how the two countries operate politically. Another difference is that the U.S. has a bicameral legislature as opposed to the unicameral system in South Korea.

There are two significant differences between the United States and Korea. One is how the National Assembly is different from the United States Congress in its laws and its functions. But the even more important difference is the age of the United States. The United States is institutionally just a lot older than Korea. The institutions for governance in the United States are much, much older. The United States has been running according to this constitution since 1787 and current parties for over 150 years.

There are real differences between the United States and other democracies because of the age of our system. Korea has come very far in a very short period of time. In the American case, even before it was a country, the United States was made up of people who fled from the Old World and brought with them an idea of what a democracy would be and how they would run their small communities. We were experimenting with new governance in the 17th century. There were waves of dissident groups from Europe who, inspired by liberal political ideals, fled to the United States to seek greater freedom. That was not the case for Korea. In Korea, there was a monarchic dynasty until 1910 and Korea was run under Japanese colonialism until 1945. Then new democratic institutions were, in some ways, imposed upon South Korea by the United States. But these institutions did not function the way they should have. The United States ultimately had to tolerate an authoritarian ally because it feared that otherwise, South Korea would be taken over by the Communists.

I argue that it would have been difficult to establish a functional liberal democracy in Korea in 1945. The roots of the democratic process were shallow and there was much that was unprecedented in Korea. Koreans simply did not have the habits or the understanding of democratic government to make it a reality.

Of course some Americans disagree with me on this point. Some say that the United States used Korea's so-called "immaturity" as an excuse to support a military government. I think that if you look at history, post-colonial societies, nations after civil wars, or nations that gain independence suddenly, you will observe that when they try to set up democracies right away, the success rate is not high. Before you can have a functional democracy, citizens have to understand what their responsibilities in a democracy are. They have to develop new habits and practices in decision-making.

In the American case, when people started crossing the Atlantic, setting up communities in the 17th century, many saw these communities as full-fledged democratic communities. But these co-

lonies were initially very small in scale. That effort in the United States was nothing like Korea, nothing like taking a whole country and saying, "Let's set up a democracy." The United States had been a democracy longer, even before it was a country. At the local level it was democratic, even if not all people could participate.

That is not to say that democracy in America has been perfect. If you look carefully at U.S. history, there are some things to be ashamed of. For many people, African Americans and Native Americans, America was not a democratic country at all. So it took the United States a long time to improve and perfect its democratic institutions and it is still an ongoing process. What South Korea has done that is remarkable is create such a vibrant democracy in such a short period of time.

The politics of Korea and the United States are different. I don't think we can say that one is better than the other. Each has its strengths. What we can say about Korea that is distinctive is the role of NGOs and watchdog groups that play a very important role in Korean politics. In the United States we have political action committees, but overall they are clearly under the influence of a particular party.

We could say that Korean democracy is less mature, institutionally less mature, that Koreans have less sophistication in politics. And the result is greater corruption and more improper activity in politics. That might be true. At the same time, there are those who would argue the opposite — that Korea is more vibrant, more vibrant as a democracy — perhaps because the struggle for democracy is more recent for Koreans.

The politics of Korea and the United States are different. I don't think we can say that one is better than the other. Each has its strengths. What we can say about Korea that is distinctive is the role of NGOs and watchdog groups play a very important role in Korean politics. In the United States, we have political action committees, but overall they

are clearly under the influence of a particular party. They are not really objective; their impact is reduced. Korea has a strong NGO movement to keep politics in check.

There is also a difference in the formation of the political economy of the two economies. We can talk about political parties, industry and bureaucrats as players in the political arena in Korea. The big difference is the role of bureaucrats. People working in government agencies and their leaders have much more power and influence in Korea than in the United States. In the United States, career bureaucrats occasionally rise to significant roles, but in general it is not a fast track and the appeal of that track is very low.


Part of the legacy in Korea is of ministries that built the economy, proposing and implementing five-year plans. The Ministry of Economic Planning and the Ministry of Finance played a central role in Korea's rapid economic development. They made up policy and implemented it. The ideal of a professional impartial bureaucrat has great power in Korea and impacts how government and politics is perceived.


Obviously there are plenty of people working for the U.S. government as well, but what they can do in their departments is more limited. When politicians in Korea are elected they can appoint a whole new bunch of people and then shift what a government agency does to a large extent.

Back in the 1960s, something like 40 percent of the graduating class of Harvard Law School went to work for the government. But today the number is more like 4 percent or less. Graduates of Harvard Law School may end up working in the government eventually, but they would first go into business where they can make money, pay off student loans and build up business and political connections. Those elites do not go directly into the Department of Commerce and start climbing the ladder.

I remember vividly how young people in Korea study for years to become a lawyer or a civil servant. It is a very different world, one in which civil service is a viable, workable job for people with good credentials. Moreover, schools have become so expensive in the United States that working for the government is not really an option for graduates. If you go to Harvard Law, or even Harvard College, you cannot afford to work for the government.

America's higher education is so expensive that it limits the ability of people to work in government. Simply, it is not lucrative for graduates.

This paradox of education has a real impact in America. 

 **About this interview:** This interview, which was conducted as an Asia Institute event, has been adapted from Pastreich's website, www.circlesandssquares.asia, with his permission. — Ed.

CHANGE IS COMING

Choosing Korea's next president

Story by James Little / Illustrations by Adela Ordoñez

Election
2012
ANALYSIS

➤ On Dec. 19, Koreans will choose their president for the sixth time since free elections began in 1987. The importance of this election cannot be understated: While on the surface the two remaining candidates have produced platforms with more similarities than differences, their philosophies and visions couldn't be more different.

The right has offered an olive branch to centrist voters by offering to ramp up social spending, an area where Korea consistently ranks near the bottom among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. But will Park Geun-hye's conservatives follow through with their pledge to narrow Korea's wealth gap, or will they fall back into their old ways of pandering to the country's conglomerates? The bigger question for Park's presidential run might be whether she can successfully rid herself of the label "the dictator's daughter."

On the other hand, the liberal candidate, Moon Jae-in, was chief of staff to late President Roh Moo-hyun, and the jury is still out on whether that will help or hurt his bid for the Blue House.

Roh had one of the lowest approval ratings of any democratically elected leader in the world while he was in office. Also, the liberals have stubbornly clung to their policy of appeasing North Korea, even through its deadly provoca-

tions over the last few years.

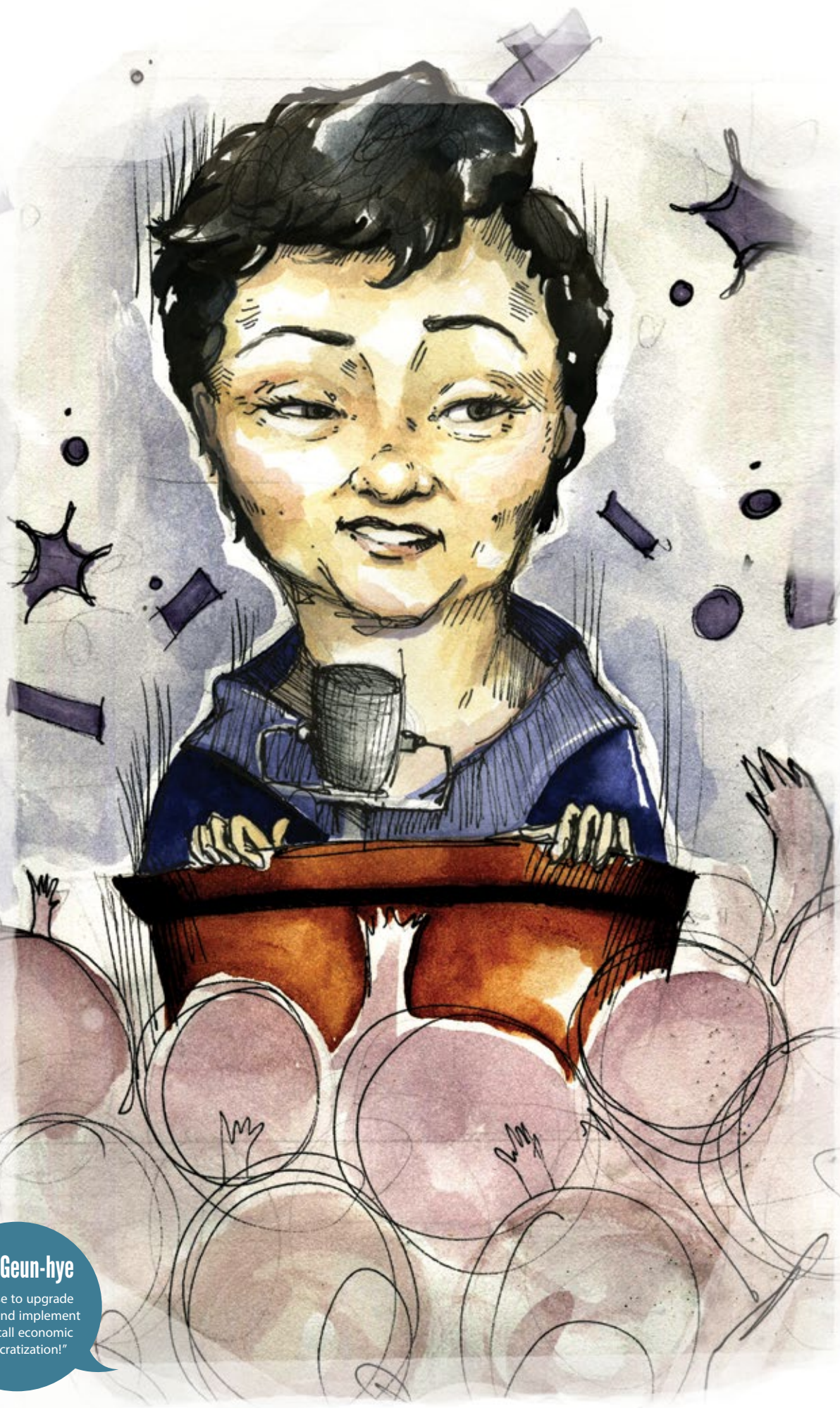
Moon and Park are vying for an electorate weary of rampant corruption among government officials and policies favoring the wealthy. In addition to that, there's precious little information about how the candidates will achieve broad proposals for reform of childcare, education, or the corporate sector. Specifics are also lacking on how they will spur economic growth amidst a weak global economy, an especially daunting task for Korea's export-dependent businesses. Would they raise or lower taxes, cut programs, or loosen corporate regulations?

Ahn Cheol-soo's short-lived and much talked-about bid for the presidency now looks like it was little more than a sideshow. Had Ahn stayed in the race, he would have split the liberal vote and handed Park a landslide victory. Now that he's no longer in the running, we're back to where we were in early September.

As the well-regarded journalist Michael Breen wrote in his book, "The Koreans" (2004), "There is a joke among political scientists that if you put two Koreans on a deserted island, they would form three political parties..."

With all that in mind, Groove Korea presents to you the two major candidates running for the office of president of the Republic of Korea.

Election
2012
ANALYSIS



Park Geun-hye

"I promise to upgrade welfare and implement what I call economic democratization!"

Park Geun-hye

Saenuri Party - Conservative

Park Geun-hye has been in the harsh spotlight of Korean politics her entire life. The daughter of the late autocratic dictator Park Chung-hee, Park was thrust into prominence in 1974 when a failed assassination attempt on her father by a Japanese-born, North Korean sympathizer inadvertently killed her mother. Recalled from graduate school in France at the age of 22, the young Park spent the next five years as the de facto first lady of the Republic of Korea until the eventual assassination of her father, five years later, at the hand of his own head of intelligence.

Following her father's death, Park dropped out of the spotlight, not to be seen again until the late '90's when she returned to politics as a member of the National Assembly, promising to save an embarrassed country from the woes it was experiencing during the Asian Financial Crisis and IMF bailout loans.

Foreign policy

Park is vague on her foreign policy goals.

However, her essay in the Sept./Oct. 2011 issue of Foreign Affairs magazine does give us some clues.

"Two contrasting trends exist side-by-side in Asia, the information revolution, globalization, and democratization clashing with the competitive instincts of the region's major powers. To ensure that the first set of forces triumphs, policy-makers in Asia and in the international community must not only take advantage of existing initiatives, but also adopt a bolder and more creative approach to achieving security. Without such an effort, military brinkmanship may only increase — with repercussions well beyond Asia.

"The rest of the world can help with these efforts. To begin with, strengthening the indispensable alliance between South Korea and the United States should send unequivocal signals to North Korea that only responsible behavior can ensure the regime's survival and a better life for its citizens. The E.U. is not a member of the six-party nuclear talks, but the model of regional cooperation that Europe represents can contribute to peace building on the Korean Peninsula."

Like father, like ... ?

Park's greatest strength, her royal status amongst adoring conservatives, is also her largest obstacle to wooing votes from the center. Voters are just as likely to vote for her because of her father as they are to reject her for the same reason.

However, Park is her own woman. While her detractors enjoy publicly referring to her as "the dictator's daughter," comparisons such as this are misrepresentative. Park is unashamedly conservative and at times has appeared cold and distant. Yet she is certainly no authoritarian dictator in the making. She has so far had a difficult time positioning herself on her father's legacy.

She originally stated, in reference to the 1961 coup d'etat in which her father took power, "I think my late father made an unavoidable, yet his best possible, decision." However, after continuing pressure from the left, she offered a formal apology for those who suffered under his rule, as well as describing numerous actions of his as being in violation of the constitution. It seems unlikely, however, that this will slow the left from attacking her for her father. At the same time, she has also misrepresented her father's actions.

"Two contrasting trends exist side by side in Asia, the information revolution, globalization, and democratization clashing with the competitive instincts of the region's major powers."

One such case is with regards to the People's Revolutionary Party incident, in which eight men were executed just hours after being sentenced to prison for protesting Park Chung-hee's rule, and were posthumously exonerated. Similarly, she falsely defended the Jeongsu Scholarship Foundation scandal, where she said that the original founder surrendered the foundation's assets, though a Seoul court found in February that he was forced to do so by her father's regime.

Policy platform

Since announcing her intention to run, and winning the backing of her conservative party with a staggering 84 percent of the vote, she has focused her campaign platform primarily on welfare, fairer business (what she describes as "economic democratization") and bridging the partisan divide between the two sides of the aisle.

Unfortunately for Park, the workers' unions and liberal factions she is trying to make amends with seem to be less than interested in cooperating.

In November, her team announced she is planning to refocus her campaign on a 10-trillion-won economic stimulus plan, but that hadn't been confirmed as of press time.

Even if she is able to bring in a stronger welfare system and prove her credentials as a candidate set on social change, it is unlikely that her core principles, particularly those regarding the economy, will change significantly.

"Strengthening the indispensable alliance between the ROK and the U.S. should send unequivocal signals to North Korea that only responsible behavior can ensure the regime's survival."

During the 2008 presidential election, where she narrowly lost the conservative ticket to Lee Myung-bak (who went on to win the presidency), Park campaigned on the promise of lower taxes, reduced economic regulation, and continuing a friendly relationship with the chaebol, or conglomerates.

With respect to North Korea, Park speaks from a position of experience, having met the late Dear Leader, Kim Jong-il, in Pyongyang in 2002. Writing in Foreign Affairs magazine in Sept./Oct. 2011, she expressed her belief that the Sunshine Policy of previous liberal governments had not worked. Yet at the same time, she also acknowledged that the hardline policies of her conservative party have brought about very little for either the development of North Korea or an improvement in relations. Park called for a system of "trustpolitik," whereby South Korea and its allies would align themselves to the actions of North Korea based on developing trust. If North Korea were to enact economic reform, it would be aptly rewarded, however if Pyongyang were to restart enriching uranium, it would meet a stern response from the South and her allies.

Victory

Park's easiest path to success would have been if the two liberal candidates, Ahn Cheol-soo and Moon Jae-in, both stayed in the race. Against the two liberal candidates and a split on the left — as happened in the 1987 presidential election — the presidency would have been hers. That, of course, didn't happen, with Moon now being her sole rival.

Now in a head-to-head race, Park remains in a strong position. Having distanced herself from the current, and rather unpopular, conservative President Lee, and having the backing of the largest political party in the country, Park is arguably the strongest and most experienced candidate. The biggest threat to Park rests in whether Moon can successfully invigorate the young and liberal base enough to come out and vote, skewing the voting demographics away from her.

Victory for Park isn't dependent on whether her older, richer and more conservative backers will come out and vote for her; they will. The election will be decided by whether or not the left shows up to vote on the day — something they haven't been doing in recent elections.

Election
2012
ANALYSIS

Moon Jae-in

"I promise to increase jobs,
upgrade welfare, protect
all the minority groups.
People first!"

Moon Jae-in

Democratic United Party - Liberal

Having prevailed over the idealistic independent, Ahn Cheol-soo, to run as the sole liberal candidate, Moon Jae-in now stands face-to-face with Park Geun-hye. A long-time, if not reluctant, participant in South Korean politics, Moon Jae-in came to prominence as a close friend and major political adviser to the late liberal president, Roh Moo-hyun. Acting first as Roh's campaign manager during the 2002 South Korean presidential election, and then following on as Roh's closest aide and eventually chief of staff, Moon has a wealth of experience at the top echelons of Korean presidential power.

Foreign policy

All we know about Moon's foreign policy is that he has a special interest in North Korea. He was a key player in the previous Roh Moo-hyun administration and will likely give the failed Sunshine Policy another go-round.

Here is what he has had to say about North Korea:

"I plan to take fundamental steps to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue with simultaneous, bilateral dialogue between Pyongyang and Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington, and Pyongyang and Tokyo." — Speaking at Seoul's Sejong Center, Oct. 4

"The Kim Jung-un regime is showing a different image compared to the past. North Korea's leadership style as well as something in the power group is changing, and signs of change in the regime's economic policy are being observed.

"The international community is showing attention to this change and seeking how to set up a new relationship with North Korea." — Speaking on Aug. 17

"I will end the Korean Peninsula's tragic history of confrontation and distrust ... We should help North Korea's new leadership to change positively, and achieve inter-Korean collaborative growth by becoming a more mature promoter of peace on the Korean peninsula." - Speaking on Aug. 17

Liberal pedigree

Like many liberal candidates before him, Moon's qualifications for entering politics come from his work as a human rights lawyer.

Growing up poor on Geoje Island and having just seen the end of the Korean War, Moon struggled amongst the more well-to-do students at his school. Although a smart student with good grades, Moon was known more for his fighting, drinking and smoking.

He studied law at Kyunghee University, but again had difficulties conforming to a system he didn't agree with.

Moon took the path of many liberal candidates before him as a student activist and spoke up loudly against the reign of Park Geun-hye's father, dictator Park Chung-hee.

During this period he was arrested and jailed several times, yet managed to complete both his law degree and his mandatory military service. Rejecting calls from top law firms to go and work for them, Moon instead took a job in Busan alongside several prominent human rights lawyers.

One of those lawyers was a man named Roh Moo-hyun.

Me and my shadow

The relationship between Moon and Roh spanned almost 30 years and took them to the top echelons of power. They worked together through the '80's in Busan, primarily on legal cases involving the still-persistent human rights abuses of the authoritarian regime. In 1987, when South Korea finally saw a move toward free and democratic elections for the first time in its young history, the two were asked to run for seats in the National Assembly. Roh entered the Assembly in the following year, while Moon declined and stayed behind in Busan to continue his legal work.

Although Roh experienced difficult times in the following 15 years, when he found himself leading the liberals and about to campaign for president, there was only one man Roh trusted enough to act as his consigliere. Moon very shortly afterward found himself running Roh's 2002 presidential campaign — a race that Roh and Moon ultimately won.

During the next five years, Moon was in and out of the executive office of Cheong Wa Dae, assisting Roh when the need arose. Most notably, Moon came to act as counsel for Roh when the president found himself in the middle of an impeachment trial for illegal electioneering. Moon continued to stand by Roh for the rest of his presidency and remained there until Roh's suicide in 2009 under mounting charges of corruption.

Political platform

Moon encountered almost no resistance within the DUP during the primaries. This was probably because all eyes were on Ahn Cheol-soo. Yet within days of winning the nomination, and the news media becoming restless with the timing of Ahn's announcement, Moon shot to the front of the pack for presidential contenders.

Moon, it seems, may be the most traditional candidate of the three. While Ahn has talked about wanting a clean and new campaign and Park has taken great efforts to cross the aisle and work with the opposition as well as longtime allies, Moon seems to be falling into familiar political patterns. Moon has in the past spoken of letting bygones be bygones, yet recently he chose to only pay respects to the graves of previous liberal presidents Roh Moo-hyun and mentor Kim Dae-jung. The act of paying respect in this manner is a gesture that is considered incredibly important in Korean politics, as Park Geun-hye proved by attempting to visit the graves of left-wing politicians.

As for his policy platform, Moon, like all politicians, is promising to put "people first." This would most likely include a sizeable welfare upgrade, as well as

further improvements to the protection of minority groups and the strengthening of democracy in Korea. Moon has spoken of increasing jobs by putting limitations on working conditions. This would include setting a maximum limit of 52 hours a week for full-time workers as well as reforming laws regarding part-time and "irregular" contracted work.

Like a lot of liberal politicians around the world, Moon has been fond of the "1 vs. 99 percent" argument.

Victory

Only months ago, Moon Jae-in would have been a footnote in this article. Although the clear frontrunner for the DUP, most pundits believed that the presidential race was always going to boil down to a two-way contest between Ahn Cheol-soo and Park Geun-hye. Moon proved them wrong. Within days of a decisive win in the primaries of the DUP, the second-largest political party in South Korea, Moon had made incredible gains in the national polls. In fact, only hours before Ahn officially announced his candidacy for the presidency, Moon led Park in the popular vote.

Ahn's decision to announce only following the DUP primaries created a three-way race that instantly put the liberals on the back foot with Moon and Ahn splitting the left-wing vote.

However, if this had effected Moon's dedication to his campaign he certainly wasn't showing it. Moon continued with a vigorous campaign schedule that saw him working harder than any of the other candidates. Moon made sure it was clear to the media and the voting public that he was no one's third wheel.

After playing political chicken with Ahn for several months over who would run as the sole liberal candidate and who would not, Moon finally managed to step over this proverbial thorn in his side to compete head-to-head with Park for the presidency.

With Ahn now stepped aside and Moon the sole liberal candidate running, the outcome of this election very much stops with him. For any chance of victory, Moon must invigorate the dormant liberal base which Ahn originally attracted, and convince them that he can bring about the kind of change they are desperate to see.

As with many elections, a low voter turnout will almost guarantee a loss for the liberals. Moon's best chance at being the next president rests on him ensuring that doesn't happen. 🇰🇷

**Kim Tae-ro
(60)**

Store owner

CHOOSING KOREA'S FUTURE

4 voters speak up

Interviews and Photos by James Little

> Groove Korea sat down with Koreans from across the political spectrum to talk about politics and the problems facing the country. Following is a summarized transcript of four of the interviews.

The opinions expressed here are those of the interviewees and do not represent Groove Korea. — Ed.

Groove Korea: Who are you planning to vote for and why?

Kim Tae-ro: I am over 50, so I think I am more conservative.

If you were to vote for Park Geun-hye, would her father, Park Chung-hee, affect your vote in any way?

That's very difficult to answer. She is the representative of the conservative party and so that is one of the main reasons (I support her) — she is not her father.

Does Park Geun-hye's gender have any influence on this election?

It's our first time to have the opportunity to vote a woman into the presidency. It's a big change, I think. Other countries, some in Europe and in New Zealand, have had many women heads of state. I think it's only natural, so no, I don't think that it matters much.

What is the biggest problem Korea is facing?

The big gap between the rich and the poor is one of the biggest issues. Personally, I think the increasing costs of welfare are a problem — social benefits and so forth. I am quite worried about that. More welfare spending seems to be in all the parties' platforms.

So an increase in tax would be a big problem?

Yes, yes. All the parties, including Ms. Park's are saying that. That is quite worrying.

If you could ask the candidates one question each, what would you like to ask them?

Park Geun-hye: You have promised to spend more on welfare, but that is not your party's traditional position. How will you reconcile that?

Moon Jae-in: Would you continue down the path of Kim Dae-jung's failed Sunshine Policy?

Anything to add?

I don't think Mr. Ahn Cheol-soo (a third-party candidate who dropped out in November) went about his campaign in a fair way. He should have participated in the DUP primary. But he waited until after the primary. That is quite unfair.

Election 2012

OPINION

Hong Ji-yoon (19)

Student,
Korea University

What can you tell us about the parties and their platforms?

The Democratic United Party and Moon Jae-in's campaign talk a good talk, but they're idealistic. They don't have achievable goals. That's why I like the Saenuri Party more.

How will you decide between the two candidates?

I'll decide as the election gets closer, when both candidates come up with more detailed policies. I don't feel they have settled on concrete platforms as of yet.

Does Park Geun-hye's father affect your vote in any way?

Most young people hate Park Geun-hye because they think she has been influenced by her father (dictator Park Chung-hee). But I think she does really well in politics.

Does Park Geun-hye's gender have any influence on this election?

No, it doesn't affect anything.

Why did students like Ahn Cheol-soo when he was running?

He's a really great guy. He doesn't think of money, he just wants most people to be happy. He graduated from medical school, and even though he was offered positions at renowned universities, he decided to develop computer vaccines for the general public.

What is the biggest problem Korea is facing?

The politicians don't know how to work together, and they always fight. Also, most teenagers are very stressed by the Korean educational system. It would be really hard to change how we educate our youth, but I really think it's time.

If you had one question for Park Geun-hye, what would it be?

If you become president, will you maintain the current political system? If not, what specifically are you going to change?

"The politicians don't know how to work together, and they always fight. Also, most teenagers are very stressed by the Korean educational system. It would be really hard to change how we educate our youth, but I really think it's time." — Hong Ji-yoon

**Park
Su-hyun
(34)**

English Teacher

Groove Korea: Who are you planning to vote for and why?

Park Su-hyun: Moon Jae-in, but I had been considering Ahn Cheol-soo. We need new, honest, clean and humble leaders, not ones who will maintain an economic system that panders to the rich.

Do you support Moon Jae-in and Ahn Cheol-soo working together?

They should. I really, really hope Ahn gives up this election and supports Moon Jae-in. Since Moon has worked for former president Roh Moo-hyun, Moon seems like he is the more electable person for this election.

What is the biggest problem Korea is facing?

Some of the Christians who live in Gangnam that believe their God gave them the power to control the newspapers and news.

If you could ask any of the three candidates anything, what would you ask?

Park Geun-hye: What is your position on the Four Rivers Restoration Project? Why didn't you use your power to make things right when there was still time?

Anything to add?

Please save this country!

"We need new, honest, clean and humble leaders, not ones who will maintain an economic system that panders to the rich."

— Park Su-hyun

Election 2012

OPINION

Sim Min-gyun
(34)
Chef

Groove Korea: Who are you planning to vote for?

Sim Min-gyun: I had been planning to vote for Ahn Cheol-soo before he dropped out of the race. I have a lot of respect for him and I think would have brought about change.

Do you support Ahn and Moon working together?

Personally, I don't think they should work together. Although both candidates want to be president for a better future, their fundamental ideals are too different. It would only work if they shared each other's good ideas. However, I think there would be too much conflict between them.

What is the biggest problem Korea is facing?

Probably the economy. Right now economic inequality is getting worse; people who are comfortable continue to live comfortably; the middle class is disappearing, so there are more people struggling. I think that's the largest problem. A portion of the middle class has fallen to the working class, and they cannot return easily.

As a small business owner, how has the economy affected you?

We are affected the most — those who are self-employed are the ones who are the most affected. Also, the number of customers is decreasing which is a problem, especially here because our food is not so cheap. When the economy is bad there are definitely fewer customers.

If you could ask the three candidates one question each, what would you like to ask them?

I would only like to ask a question to Park Geun-hye, because she lives in her father's shadow. The fact is, she is the daughter of Park Chung-hee. I think there are still people who have a hard time trusting her because of that. So my question is: What policies do you have that people can relate to?

Anything to add?

I have made my choice for president, but it doesn't really matter who wins the election. It is more important how the president leads the country. It shouldn't be a competition between these candidates — it should be more about cooperation among them to lead the country in the right direction.

"Right now economic inequality is getting worse; people who are comfortable continue to live comfortably; the middle class is disappearing, so there are more people struggling."

— Sim Min-gyun

“and the stones spoke to me”



Egypt

where it all begins



10th

ANNIVERSARY
2002 - 2012

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INSIGHT

A 21ST CENTURY PILGRIMAGE

Into the real Korea

Story by Matthew Lamers / Photos by Christopher McCarthy





➤ When Tony MacGregor and his group of pilgrims embarked on a trek across Korea, a question they sought to answer was how to find one's true nature. Through a kind of walking vipassana (meditation), they examined their emotions and feelings. And in the process of that inward search, they inadvertently discovered the "real Korea."

The first pilgrimage — from Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province, to Wonhyo-bong, South Chungcheong Province — took place one year ago this month. Nine months later, MacGregor, videographer Christopher McCarthy and their team set out on a second pilgrimage to document their experiences on film, which will premiere in Seoul on Buddha's Birthday next year. McCarthy and MacGregor plan to return to Korea next year to study with Jeoung-gwan sunim at Gimyoung-sa.

This was a historic pilgrimage: MacGregor and his team became the first people to retrace the steps of the eccentric Korean monk Wonhyo, who achieved enlightenment over 1,300 years ago. It was also the first time that foreigners in Korea had ever undertaken a pilgrimage by staying at temples.

"A pilgrimage is all about growing spiritually, and that definitely happened to me on both trips," MacGregor said. "It gave me a chance to look inside myself,

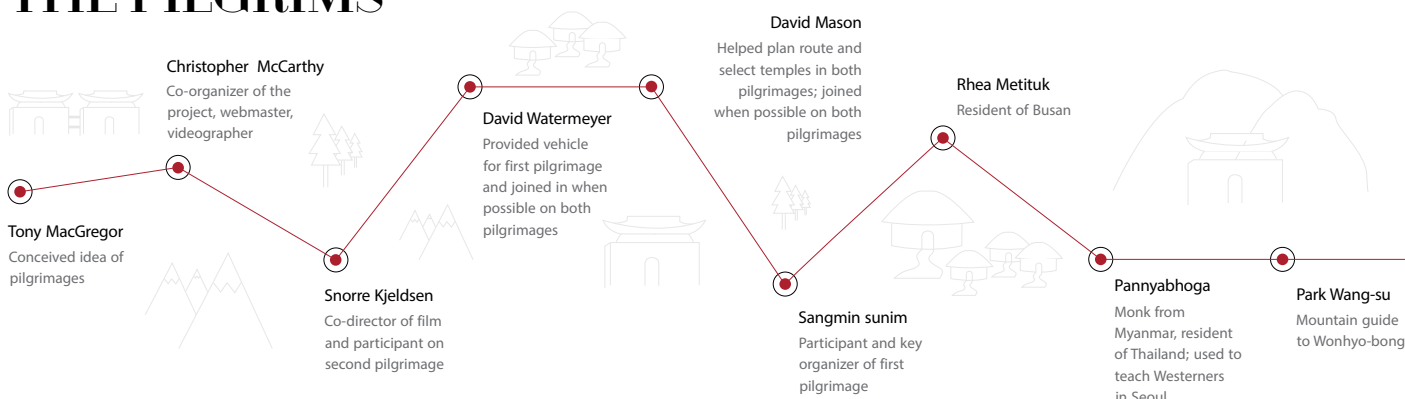
to explore my mind and my thinking and to learn from the monks. But since we were going through new villages and byways and forests and unknown places, and interacting with the Korean people, we also explored the outside.

"We didn't set out to find the 'real Korea' or 'real Koreans,' but perhaps we did by meeting Koreans in their traditional small villages and encountering their wonderful kindness."

Strangers helped them along the way. Some offered food and money; they were invited for coffee and given free accommodation. "People in the countryside are a joy," MacGregor recalled. "They are natural and genuine, not trying to impress and not trying to imitate something out of a magazine. When they found out that we were on a pilgrimage for Wonhyo, they were especially helpful. Some of the abbots gave us money for the pilgrimage. Sometimes they let us stay in the temples for free and encouraged us to complete the pilgrimage."

Accommodation wasn't always free — or determined — and on the first pilgrimage they winged it most days, not knowing where they'd end up sleeping. They spent nights in minbak, temples and even an ancient hanok village. The Jogye Order, Korea's largest Buddhist sect, helped make the 2012 pilgrimage a more organized affair by arranging accommodation at temples in advance.

THE PILGRIMS





Thirteen centuries separated Wonhyo's and MacGregor's journeys, but they share many similarities. Both were inner searches. In Wonhyo's age, his life overlapped the heavy turmoil on the peninsula amid the struggles between the Three Kingdoms during the Unification Wars and the Unified Silla period. Today, too, the peninsula is divided politically and socioeconomically.

Neither Wonhyo nor MacGregor undertook the pilgrimage alone.

Professors, friends and even a monk from Myanmar accompanied MacGregor at times. In total, 17 people were involved in the pilgrimages in one way or another.

Wonhyo's original destination was China, where he was going with his friend and fellow monk, Uisang. But after an awakening experience in a tomb several hundred kilometers into the journey, Wonhyo decided to turn back; he had concluded that the most important journey is the inner journey, and that could be done anywhere.

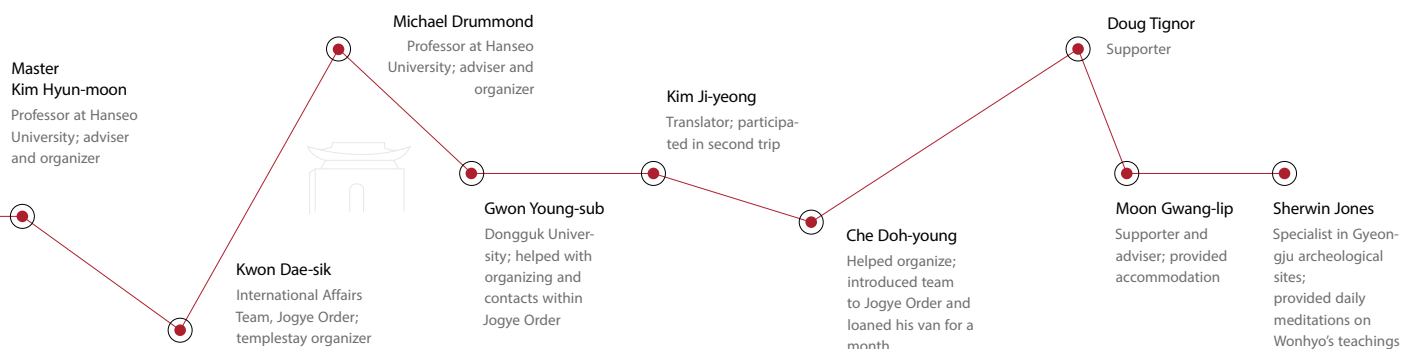
"In many ways (Wonhyo) would be able to relate to today's world," MacGregor pondered. "Were they (Wonhyo and Uisang) shown the same kind of loving-kindness we were along the way? I suspect they were. Did they stop and gaze with wonder at the awe-inspiring views on their trail as we did? I'm

sure they did. Did they have times of stress and tension as we did? For sure ... Following in his footsteps, we also unquestionably grew in self-understanding and self-knowledge and drew closer to the awakening that Wonhyo knew and experienced."

What would Wonhyo's message be for the modern world? "If he were alive today," MacGregor posited, "I think he would ask people to look further than the surface waves and turmoil and to look at the underlying sea beneath it all; not get caught up in superficial surface movement. Look underneath and see the oneness of everything. I think that's what his message would be."

Those hours and days MacGregor spent on the trail gave him the time he needed to learn about himself. "I came a little closer to understanding my nature," he said. "Walking gave me an opportunity to be alone, to think and contemplate. We also learned from the monks. A question we asked the monks was, 'Can you reach enlightenment in a busy city, or do you have to go out to the mountains to do it?' Most of them answered that it can happen anywhere. It doesn't have to happen in the mountains. I think that would have been Wonhyo's answer, too."

On the Web
inthefootstepsofwonhyo.com



KOREAN PILGRIMAGE DIARIES

In the footsteps of Wonhyo

Journal by Tony MacGregor / Photos by Christopher McCarthy

Dec. 3

The journey begins

Bunhwang-sa to Oeo-sa

DAY
1

► It was the first day on the Wonhyo pilgrimage and I thought it might be my last. I was rolling down a hill headfirst. I had slipped in a wild, forested area while my fellow pilgrims and I were making our way to Oeo-sa.

Bam. I came to a sudden stop and felt a pain on the side of my head. My fellow pilgrims rushed to help me – Chris McCarthy, David Watermeyer and Sangmin sunim (sunim means monk). I stared at the shocked and concerned looks on their faces. Chris splashed some water on the bump on the side of my head for several minutes. After, others helped me to my feet and I knew I was going to be okay. Soon we were all walking down the tangled stream again.

The first day of the pilgrimage started like a dream. It was a crisp, invigorating day, perfect for walking. As we arrived at our starting point, Bunhwang-sa – a temple closely associated with Wonhyo and one which holds his portrait – several older people were carrying out their daily rituals of bowing and meditation.

Wonhyo is Korea's most beloved Buddhist saint and a scholar of international renown.

Our pilgrimage was an attempt — the first ever made — to reenact the journey Wonhyo and his friend Uisang made in the 7th century across the Korean Peninsula, which ended in Wonhyo's enlightenment in a cave near Dangjin, South Chungcheong Province.

David Mason, who helped plan the route and select temples in both pilgrimages, only walked to Lake Bomun. Before he left, he told us a story of Wonhyo. In it, Wonhyo came across a woman who was menstruating, washing in a stream. Wonhyo asked for a drink and the woman handed him a dipper full of water that contained some of her menstrual blood. Disgusted, Wonhyo threw the water away and filled the dipper with water upstream from the woman. He left and later returned to look for the woman but nothing was left of her except one of her shoes. Wonhyo took the shoe to a nearby temple and found the matching shoe under what used to be a statue of the Bodhisattva of Compassion. Wonhyo realized that the woman in the stream was the Bodhisattva of Compassion. By rejecting her drink, he had severely curtailed his ability to develop spiritually.

"The moral of the story," said David, "is to show respect to everyone you meet because you never know who might be a Bodhisattva."

After dinner

In a toast to Wonhyo and his accomplishments, I emphasized the importance of the inner journey on our trip. I pointed out that Wonhyo's discovery of the importance of the mind — his personal realization of that truth — is foreshadowed by earlier teachings of the Buddha. In the Dhammapada, the Buddha

said: "We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts we make the world. Speak or act with a pure mind. And happiness will follow you. As your shadow, unbreakable."

The mind, I said, is all important and our journey, although it is a physical journey, is also a journey of the mind and that journey is the most important one. So it is important that we don't get diverted — not by beautiful views, or by beautiful temples.

After all, I said, "Wonhyo actually abandoned his physical journey after his enlightenment experience because he realized that the inner journey is what matters. It is the important thing."

Christopher McCarthy is our chief navigator on the journey. David Mason worked out our basic route from Gyeongju to a cave near Dangjin. Using Google Earth, Chris had refined the route, trying to keep us to walking about 28 kilometers a day. The whole journey of about 500 kilometers will take over 20 days.

Our big challenge each day is navigation and finding lodging before nightfall. The day before we left for the trip, David Watermeyer and I had driven to Oeo-sa, near Pohang, our first scheduled night on the trail. Unfortunately, the only accommodation we had been able to find nearby was a love hotel. We comforted ourselves with the thought that Wonhyo had shocked his contemporaries by associating with harlots, butchers and bandits.

We also found lodgings for our second sleeping stop, Yangdong, an ancient preserved village.





Dec. 4

Physical challenges

Oeo-sa to Yangdong

DAY
2

Quote: “When we discover the One Mind, which is the source of everything, discriminating minds do not arise. The division of the Three Kingdoms — the division of East and West, North and South — all melt away in the furnace of the One Mind.” — Jeong Byeong-jo from “Master Wonhyo: An Overview of his Life and Teachings”

The morning began with a wonderful walk. We woke up in a small temple, Jajang-am hermitage, high above Oeo-sa, which nestled below us in a valley surrounded by mountains. It was a beautiful view. Breakfast was prepared by Park Chong-sang, the solitary monk at Jajang-am.

It was a filling and tasty breakfast of mild Korean curry, including potatoes and carrots and rice.

Oeo-sa beckoned to us, but the climb down and back up was too tough a way to start the day. We knew the history of the temple in any case. Oeo-sa, or my fish tem-

ple, refers to a legendary competition between Wonhyo and another Buddhist master called Hyegong. To prove which one had the most supernatural powers, each caught a fish in the river and ate it. They then emptied their bowels. One fish came out alive, indicating supernatural powers, but since both men claimed the fish came from him, the dispute was not settled.

We walked down the mountain from the little temple and into a rural area of paddy fields filled with the stubble of harvested rice stalks that were beginning to rot into the wet earth.

Soon we were on a concrete mountain road, walking upwards. On the left was a bubbling stream, half covered with bamboo plants, while on the right, stubble-covered paddy fields nestled against the road. The paddy fields disappeared and there was only the road and the stream.

My stick tapped on the road as I walked rhythmically upwards, the concrete path speckled with brown leaves passed under my gaze and I achieved a meditative state in the late morning, not consciously thinking, not striving, just being.

Yangdong Village is a visit to the 18th century. I watched workers carrying huge bales of rice straw, which they used to thatch the roofs of houses. My guide, Bok Young-chul, said the thatch is replaced every year, but there are fewer and fewer people who re-

member how to do it.

Two families dominated the village, which now has 150 houses and a population of 300 to 400 residents. Now, he said, young people are leaving the village for jobs elsewhere. He showed me the oldest house of the Son family. It is called Seobaektang, which has in its garden a 600-year-old Chinese Juniper tree, planted when the house was built. He explained that the word Seobaektang means the need to write down the word “patience” 400 times a day.

Chris suggested that we rest the next day and I concurred. I wanted to give my feet and legs a rest.

In the evening we discussed Wonhyo’s reputation as a person who broke down barriers — barriers between groups and classes, and the internal barriers, barriers that prevented his enlightenment.

I asked whether this first pilgrimage in Wonhyo’s honor was breaking down barriers.

For me, barriers had already started to crumble on the pilgrimage because there were times when I was not consciously thinking, not striving, not trying, just being, just existing and feeling part of everything.

I asked Chris his view but there was no response. He was already sleeping. David joked that he had broken down the barriers between being awake and being asleep.

DAY
3

Dec. 6

A day of rest at Yangdong Folk Village

Yangdong to Daejeon-sa

To - day was a day of rest. The toenails of my big toes had turned blue, probably because my shoes were too loose and my feet were sliding into the front of the shoes. But my left knee, which had been banged in a fall, gave me no pain when I walked to a little store/restaurant at Yangdong Village.

A gentle rain was falling as I sat on the red plastic chairs outside the store and ate instant

shrimp noodles, a red bean bun and a bottle of soy milk for breakfast. The guide who had been such a help to me the day before explained to me how to catch a bus to the city of Angang, where I planned to buy bandages for my big toes and go to a "jimjilbang," or public bath.

After arriving I couldn't find a pharmacy. One person gave me instructions but they led me nowhere. When I next asked for directions, one man took me personally to the pharmacy. In the pharmacy I asked where the jimjilbang was and, without hesitation, the middle-aged woman brought me outside to her car and drove me there.

I sat in the hot pools of water and felt the aches and pains melt away.

The Buddha taught that the body is important, and on this pilgrimage I am getting to know my body. The Buddha said, "In this one-fathom-long body with its perceptions and thoughts is the world, the origin of the world, the end of the world and the path leading to the end of the world."

He rejected extreme asceticism after almost killing himself through starvation and chose instead the Middle Path, in which he responded to his body's needs without indulging it.

Dec. 7

A walk through apple and rice country

Daejeon-sa to Cheongsong

Quote: "One who lacks conscience and shame cannot accurately contemplate karma. And even though karma lacks any essence of criminality, one ends up going to hell." — Wonhyo, from *"The Great Vehicle Repentance for Indulgence in the Six Faculties,"* translated by Charles Muller

DAY
4

A dog was barking at us as we left Yangdong Village in the dusky light of early morning. We were headed to Gibuk-myeon, some 21 kilometers away. We had been awakened by crowing cocks at 5 a.m. and decided to make the most of it by leaving early. There were just two of us today, Chris and myself.

Our landlady, who looked to be in her 80s, prepared small cups of hot, strong coffee and pressed some oranges into our hands. As we left she smiled and waved vigorously at us.

Almost immediately we started along a path atop a banked-up causeway. To our right, about 180 meters across, was a swampy river filled with plumes of some kind of bulrush plant, bobbing in the light breeze. To our left were harvested paddy fields; gray rice hay lay in rows across the fields. A soli-

tary heron-like bird glided above.

We came across an apple orchard, one of many we encountered that day. It was a modern orchard with the tree branches strung out along wires to facilitate picking the apples. The whole orchard was covered with a cloth net to keep out birds. At the top of one of the trees was a big red apple that had been missed in harvesting.

We were hungry and discussed getting the apple since it had obviously been missed, but we thought it wouldn't look good and I pointed out that the second precept, which is usually interpreted as "no stealing," actually teaches not to take things that were not offered. It was not offered to us, so we passed it by.

About a half hour later, two local farmers in a pickup truck stopped and asked us in a friendly fashion where we came from and

did we need a lift. After learning of our pilgrimage, one of the farmers handed us two big apples and waved us on our way. We walked to a nearby roadside pavilion and ate the firm, sweet, red December apples that smelled of trees and apple leaves.

About 3 p.m. we finally made it to Gibuk-myeon. We walked into the police station and tried to tell the solitary middle-aged officer that we needed a place to sleep. He said there were no "minbak," or small family-owned inns, in Gibuk-myeon, but that he would drive us to the closest one. I couldn't help but think what a different approach North American police would take.

Sangmin sunim called in the evening with good news. He managed to secure the next day's lodging for us at a temple, Daejeon-sa.

After dinner we discussed the story of Wonhyo and one of his teachers, Master Tae-an, who took care of some raccoon cubs. In that story, Wonhyo experienced guilt and remorse because two of Master Tae-an's raccoon cubs died when in Wonhyo's care. "What," I asked Chris, "is the role that guilt and remorse can play in spiritual growth?"

He said guilt and remorse are double-edged swords. They are both positive and negative. Some people drown in guilt while others can use guilt to transcend their situation and get better. The best situation, he said, is not to put yourself in a position in which you would feel guilty. He said that on the pilgrimage so far, he had not been reflecting. "I've just been existing in the present," he said.

DAY
5

Dec. 8

Walking to
Daejeon Temple

Cheongsong to Yeongyang

Question: Can a mental attitude of purity of motive affect the behavior of those around you?

Just as we were walking on the last leg of the journey to Daejeon-sa, a woman selling apples on the side of the road ran over to us and handed each of us an enormous red apple.

We thanked her and she smiled as we walked away. Chris said it was about time we started documenting these acts of kindness, so we returned and thanked her again and Chris took a photograph of her and me standing behind her apple stall.

We have been overwhelmed with kindness so far on our journey.

We walked along the highway for a while, which was a little dangerous and unpleasant

until Chris found a rough, unpaved track and we turned along it. Our boots scrunched on the rocks and our metal walking poles clicked as we walked into the countryside, a river to the right of us and apple orchards to our left.

We arrived at Daejeon-sa much earlier than we had anticipated, about 3 p.m., and had time to take a quick walk into Juwang-san National Park, which is dominated by a huge mountain that looks like five sugar loaves pushed together vertically.

In the evening, Chris and I discussed Wonhyo and our pilgrimage to honor him. We had met such an outpouring of kindness. Can

our motives and intentions affect the way we are treated? "Yes," said Chris. "Thoughts have an impact on the environment. At crucial moments in the pilgrimage we were helped. Perhaps it's something to do with the nature of our journey — the mystery of the open road."

I told Chris a story about the Buddha found in the Khandha Paritta. In that story, monks tell the Buddha that a monk has died of a snake bite. The Buddha said that if that monk was suffused with loving-kindness toward snakes, he would not have been bitten and died.

DAY
6

Dec. 9

Meditating
in the countryside

Yeongyang to Cheongryang

Question: Wonhyo was known as a great harmonizer and reconciler. How important is harmony and how do we create it?

For the first time on the Wonhyo pilgrimage, we stopped and meditated. It wasn't planned.

We were looking at a Confucian shrine that overlooks a river valley not far from Daejeon-sa when Rhea Metituk, who joined us Thursday night, said this would be a great place to meditate.

Three of us — me, Rhea Metituk and Sangmin sunim — sat down on the brown wooden floor of the shrine overlooking the valley and meditated for half an hour. It was a clean-cut building, painted black and white with brown pillars. The meditation was refreshing and brought to mind the real reason for our pilgrimage — to look inwards and seek self-understanding.

I had to get up twice in the night. The first time tiny white snowflakes speckled the air underneath the temple lights. The second time a dusty white covering coated the ground. I felt apprehensive. The pilgrimage would be in trouble if we had a heavy snowfall.

We got up at about 6 a.m. for breakfast, which consisted of miso soup, rice, lettuce, seaweed, kimchi and spicy radish.

We walked from the temple past the stalls and shops straggling up from the base of the mountain toward the temple — shops selling herbs, bark and berries for all kinds of ailments, as well as religious souvenirs.

We continued along the red road, with the fast-flowing river on our left, the apple orchards on the right and the smell of manure or a chicken farm in our nostrils. A white heron flew up from the river and glided through our line of vision. Shards of clear ice glistened in the sun in muddy puddles as we settled into a steady walk.

It was about 3 p.m. when we arrived at our destination, the town of Cheongryang.

At the roadside café when we were discussing Wonhyo and harmony, Sangmin sunim said he was familiar with Wonhyo's theory of hwajaeng, an approach which does not recognize distinctions between negative

and positive, and postulates the interconnectedness of everything in the world. Wonhyo believed that the whole and the part exist as one. Sangmin sunim said Wonhyo has good theory, but you have to be careful about some of his beliefs — for instance, the belief that one could reach a heavenly state simply by repeating the name of the Buddha.

Rhea said you need courage to face internal issues and to integrate and harmonize conflicting elements. "In order to harmonize things, you have to bring things out into the open and deal with them."

I think Wonhyo was on the right track. Enlightenment is a state of absolute harmony — harmony with yourself and all other powers and forces. Where there is harmony, there is no conflict.

How do we achieve harmony? Through wisdom, proper behavior, compassion and by developing the mind.

DAY
7

Dec. 10

Cultivating the mind and dealing with pain

Cheongryang to Nokjeon

Question: Wonhyo encouraged people to be free of preconceptions. How can one be free of preconceptions? How do they hurt us?

We started off the day with breakfast in a 7-Eleven near the sauna/hotel where we spent the night in Cheongryang. I drank a pint of milk and ate a banana that David gave me. Rhea had to leave us for a day because of a previous commitment. The others — me, Chris, David and Sangmin sunim — set off into the crisp morning air of the quiet town. It was 1 degree Celsius.

We walked along the side of a two-lane road. Traffic was infrequent and not fast. To the right of us was a rambling cliff covered with gray tree trunks and brown leaves. On the left was a slow-moving river about 90 meters across. A squadron of brown ducks flew just above the river — their squawking floating up to us.

It was an uneventful morning and we made good time, ending up in a quiet restaurant in the little town of Jinbo for lunch. The others chose tofu soup but I opted for kimbap.

Over our lunch talk we decided to do so-

mething we hadn't done before. We had noticed the workshop of a famous Korean potter on the way in, so Sangmin sunim and I decided to visit him while David and Chris pushed on to Yeongyang.

Chris also had some thoughts on that tough last stretch to Yeongyang. "A lot of people might think this is a crazy idea — covering long distances in this kind of cold weather — but it's actually a wonderful opportunity to experiment with mind and body concepts — Wonhyo's idea of non-hindrances for instance and the concept of detachment."

The name of the famous potter that Sangmin sunim and I visited was Lee Mu-nam, who has been designated cultural asset No. 25 for North Gyeongsang Province.

Over the years he earned a high reputation and appeared in many newspapers and on television. He was designated an intangible cultural asset in 1997. There is little he hasn't tried in ceramics, and his display

rooms and the areas outside his house prove it: Picasso-like sculptures with big breasts and stomachs; long-toothed, alien-looking creatures with long necks; abstract vases with distorted faces; twisted jars with remnants of faces — all demand attention.

What would Wonhyo think of Mr. Lee's eclectic collection? I think he would have enjoyed them despite the cultural gulf between the Koreas of the 7th century and today. I think he would have appreciated them because he had an open mind and had done away with preconceptions. Without preconceptions of beauty and ugliness, Mr. Lee's work could be fascinating.

Chris believes Wonhyo's teachings on preconceptions are right on the mark. "Preconceptions are dangerous," he said, "because they're often based on wrong information."

I agree with Chris. How rich and interesting the world can be if you approach it with an open mind without pre-judgments.

DAY
8

Dec. 11

A feast on the side of the road

Nokjeon to Yecheon

Question: Can pain be used as a tool to develop spiritual insight?

We left Muryang-sa in Yeongyang the next morning. The kindly abbot of the temple, Jiu, provided the three of us with a warm meal and joined us in conversation.

She was an admirer of Wonhyo and thought our pilgrimage was a wonderful idea. Even though her temple was not set up for visitors, she let us stay in the meditation room and use the shower. In the morning she gave us a traditional Korean breakfast including soup and kimchi. Then she gave each of us a present of prayer beads from Myanmar made of Juniper and \$10 to support the pilgrimage, declining any donations from us.

We made good time that day, meandering through the mountains. I was getting deeply

tired and my left heel was bothering me as we walked past some construction equipment on the road through the park up to the temple. I thought I heard singing.

"What's that?" I asked Sangmin sunim.

"It's chanting," he replied. "We're near Cheongryang-sa." I was relieved.

We had to climb up a steep path to get to the temple, but the path provided a fantastic view and soon we caught a glimpse of the temple perched on the side of the mountain like an ancient Tibetan monastery. Because Sangmin sunim had called ahead, the temple was prepared for us.

We were greeted by a gray-clothed nun, and while Sangmin sunim donned his monk's robe and paid his respects to the

abbot, she showed us our room. The temple runs a templestay program.

The nun invited us to taste some delicious and expensive Chinese tea, along with some sweet cookies and cakes. The nun also treated my heel with suction cups.

David went to the meditation room after tea and wrote the following poem:

How long has it been since

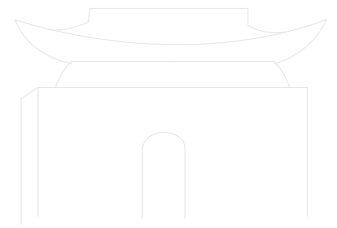
I was able to sit -

Right here, right now

With absolute trust

No need to think of this or that

On the question of using pain for spiritual development, we discussed the Buddha's Middle Way approach of not indulging the body, nor denying its essential needs.



DAY
9

Dec. 12

The beaming monk
of Yongmun Temple

Yecheon to Dongro

We started our pilgrimage late in the day because we enjoyed Cheongryang-sa so much that we decided to spend the morning in the 1,000-year-old temple with the spectacular view nestled among the mountains of Cheongryangsan Park. Rhea had rejoined the pilgrimage about 9 p.m. the night before, just in time for tea.

We had breakfast at the temple cafeteria — rice porridge, kimchi, lettuce and soy beans — at 6:30 a.m.

We decided to explore the temple before we left. We could see the sacred mountain of Cheongryangsan — a great jutting, brown rock that protruded over the temple. It was sacred long before the temple was founded in the late 600s by Wonhyo.

During our early morning walk, we came across a cave with some candles and dishes sitting on top of a rock inside. Sangnim su-

nim said it was a shrine to the mountain spirit. We felt still and quiet in the mountains. I slipped into a quiet, meditative state.

During the day, Rhea explained to me the difference to her between a hike and a pilgrimage. "It's a difference in depth of experience," she said. "Because we're on a journey with a spiritual purpose, people — especially those in the temples — are very welcoming to us, give us support and gifts and invite us for tea and talks. It's really uplifting."

She added that we had a wonderful helper in Sangmin sunim, a 37-year-old student at Dongguk University in Gyeongju. "He has organized things for us, opened doors and explained our pilgrimage for Wonhyo. He has made a huge difference to our journey."

"What is the mind? How do we cultivate it? For what purpose?"

We asked that question to student monk

Bo-seong sunim at Youngmun-sa.

Bo-seong sunim, who had been a student monk for a year after spending 20 years as a prison guard, is exuberantly happy in his new calling. We met him after Sangmin sunim had arranged for us to stay the night at the temple.

He emphasizes deep repentance as a means of cultivating the mind. Words tumble from his beaming face. "Deep repentance purifies the mind. Forgiveness frees the heart," he said, smiling.

If we forgive each other, he told us, we reach mutual understanding. Prisoners are men and can also shed tears. "I also am guilty," he said. "An ex-convict taught me that."

DAY
10

Dec. 13

A journey
to find wisdom

Dongro to Mungyeong

Question: How do we obtain wisdom?

Today we split our forces. Chris and Rhea attempted to walk the 32 kilometers between Youngmun-sa and Gimyoung-sa, while I, suffering from a heel problem, took a taxi with the intention of walking out and returning with them.

As the driver maneuvered his vehicle down the winding mountain path from the temple and out into the countryside, I began to realize how much I enjoyed walking and how much I regretted not being able to walk down the mountain. We passed a spectacular lake with an island in the middle, looking in the early morning light and mist like something from the legends of King Arthur. We passed a broken-down little plaster-and-wood house with smoke streaming from its stovepipe chimney and big bundles of rice straw tied up and leaning together in the frost-hoary fields. What a waste to go by car!

I remembered the conversation I had with David and Chris three nights ago. They be-

lieve that walking creates a highly meditative state of mind, opening up spiritual possibilities. Both veterans of the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in Spain, they believe pilgrimages should be walked as much as possible.

A beautiful little stream flowed by the spot where the taxi had left me and I took a photograph of it before proceeding up the hill to Gimyoung-sa. I felt as if I were approaching a walled medieval city in the quiet of the morning light, not knowing what I would find or what kind of welcome I'd get. A huge gate with a black tiled roof greeted me. On either side of it stood a mud wall embedded with rocks, with a foot-high black-tiled cap. To my left was a wall of massive interlocking stones.

Two women stood by some buildings. One of them detached herself and headed toward me. When she got close she smiled warmly and bowed and held her hands to-

gether in greeting. She beckoned to me to follow and she led me to the room of a monk. They spoke for a long time together and then the monk turned to me and asked clearly in English if I were Buddhist and whether I would like to pay my respects to the Buddha.

I said yes and he took me to the meditation hall. A golden statue of the Buddha was flanked by two Bodhisattvas and I bowed three times as I had been taught when I was a monk in Thailand. Then the monk, whose name was Jeong-gwan sunim, and the cleaning lady showed me to my room.

Alone, I read a little of "Master Wonhyo: An Overview of his Life and Teachings" by Professor Jeong Byeong-jo before falling asleep. It was 12 p.m. when I woke up — lunch time — so I quickly left to find the eating hall. A group of five monks sat at one table eating in silence.



I'm feeling more and more a sense of gratitude on the pilgrimage. Now I feel comfortable bowing in thanks: thanks for hot tea and the warmth of the floor, sunlight and the salty taste of soup, the smell of cooked rice and the crisp taste of apple and the warm smile of the cleaning lady.

Later, Jeoung-gwan sunim invited us — the others had caught up by then — to his room for tea and a discussion about the Dhamma.

Jeoung-gwan sunim had studied in Myanmar

as well as Korea and spoke of the nine kinds of concentration and the five hindrances. He said he had found a wonderful teacher in Myanmar, Paauk Sayado, and urged us to study with him if we had the opportunity. The five hindrances, he said, are: physical desire, ill will, sloth and torpor, restlessness, and doubt and desire.

He said the pathway to concentration is to focus on the breath. He said he had been taught by Paauk to focus on the breath entering and leaving the

body at the tip of the nose. He said a beginning technique is to count breaths until you didn't need that technique any more.

"Concentration gives you power, but you cannot reach enlightenment without insight or wisdom," he said. If you understand the three jewels, he said, you understand wisdom. The three jewels are suffering (dukkha), impermanence (anicca) and non-self (anatta).

Dec. 14



Taking care of the body in Suanbo

Mungyeong to Suanbo Hot Springs

Question: What keeps us from cultivating the mind?

Breakfast was at 6:30 a.m. and the three of us — me, Rhea and Chris — arrived a little early and accidentally got in line before the monks, a mistake in Gimyoung-sa temple. Each temple has slightly different rules. Our breakfast consisted of rice, kimchi, soup with a kind of fine grain, apples, tea and ginseng drink.

Before leaving, we had another conversation with Jeoung-gwan sunim. Both Chris and I had enjoyed his Dhamma talk the previous night and had more questions about the attainment of wisdom. He said understanding change is an important part of attaining wisdom and to understand change we should observe the physical. "The weather changes," he said. "This table in front of me will eventually rot.

In the future it will revert to its elements. Nothing is permanent, including relationships. We have to die and leave behind friends and loved ones. If we attach — think this is mine — we suffer. The body also changes and dies. It is inevitable. We can't exist for a long time even if we want to."

Later that day, we arrived at the entrance of Mungyeongsa Provincial Park. It was a pleasure to the eyes, with a rocky river running on the left of us, the mountains in the distance and the blue sky in the background. It was a cool, invigorating day, cold enough to make you want to walk, but not so cold that you wanted to avoid the outdoors.

After we entered the park, we saw a massive time-worn gate and wall in front of us. The park

is situated on an ancient transportation route, important even in the 7th century when Wonhyo and his friend Uisang made their historic journey across the peninsula.

The first gate is called Juheul-gwan, the second, Jodong-mun, and the third, Joryeong-gwan.

Later, we drove to a nearby temple built on the historical site Mireuk-ri Jungwon. We asked the kindly abbess there if we could stay the night. She would have liked us to stay, but had no facilities so we returned to Suanbo and finally rested our bodies in the hot waters of the Suanbo Hot Springs. It was wonderful to feel the aches and pains of the day's walk fade.

DAY
12

Dec. 15

On the road
to Youngpyeong Temple

Suanbo Hot Springs to Goesan

Question: What is the best way to live, studying and practicing in a monastery or sharing your spiritual insights with others to help them?

Late the previous night we had decided to change our plans and head directly to Youngpyeong-sa. We wanted to conclude our pilgrimage on Monday so that David Watermeyer, one of the key members of the pilgrimage, could participate in the closing ceremony. We planned to drink water from skull-like vessels in memory of Wonhyo's enlightenment in the concluding ceremony.

A friend of mine, Nuri Tzoweh, a Korean Canadian who lived in Suanbo, had had agreed to drive us most of the way to Youngpyeong-sa, near Daejeon, in his 1997 Avante. We wanted to walk part of the way to the temple.

Once we were on the road, we began discussing some of Wonhyo's writings I had been reading from "Master Wonhyo: An Overview of His Life

and Teachings." Wonhyo believed that giving back one's merit to others could be achieved by sharing the experience of his own enlightenment with all. However, he realized that the real meaning of the sutra could not be understood through words and letters. So he left the temple to live the teachings of the sutra fully in the wider world.

I think it was right for Wonhyo to leave the monastery, but that is not necessarily the right way for everyone. On the pilgrimage, during which we've visited many monasteries, I've come to appreciate how rich and full life in temples can be. Wonhyo chose the right path for him, but many monastics are doing great work and are happy to stay.

I arrived early with Nuri by car at Youngpyeong-sa, or Temple of Eternal Happiness, and

we were immediately invited to a Korean tea ceremony by the abbot, Huan-seong sunim, a happy, relaxed monk who smiled readily.

He took us into a large room and sat underneath a large impressionistic water color of a house on a lake. While heating some water in a jug, he explained that the temple offered tea ceremony courses, which lasted from one to four years. He served us tea made of buds and flowers of many colors. Later he explained that Zen and the tea ceremony are one, that you become the tea — the tea and you become one. There is no distinction.

Dec. 16

DAY
13Cold walk, sharp mind
on the road to Magok Temple

Youngpyeong-sa to Magok-sa

Quote: "Wisdom and practice are like the two wheels of a cart. To benefit oneself and benefit others — these are like the two wings of a bird."

— Wonhyo

Question: Is it more important to benefit others rather than oneself?

After breakfast the abbot invited us to a tea ceremony and we jumped at the chance.

We had enjoyed the tea and conversation im-

mensely the night before. When we entered the tea room, the abbot was seated behind a low table. In front of him was a deep, gray ceramic bowl about

15 inches in diameter, filled with clear water. In the water submerged just beneath the surface was a huge lotus flower that just about filled the bowl.



"Why do Buddhists have such a fascination with the lotus plant? What does it mean? What does it symbolize?" I asked the abbot. My words were translated by Sangmin sunim.

"The lotus is like Buddha's nature," the abbot replied through Sangmin sunim. "It can live in muddy water but it is always clean and pure. Water just runs off of it."

He ladled the lotus tea into our cups and continued smiling and talking. "Drink tea without thinking. Just drink without worry or anxiety. Feel and taste it."

The abbot gave us a donation of 200,000 won before we left. We were shocked. We had been expecting to pay for the night.

After we packed and began moving through the courtyard, I threw a coin into the wishing well. It bounced on the ice and landed beside the well. It was several degrees below zero, invigorating weather for walking.

We had a brief discussion about the rational/

logical mind and intuitive mind while we were walking that day. I believe the intuitive mind is superior in decision-making to the rational/logical mind and that Wonhyo's enlightenment was based on intuition, not logic or rationality.

We finally staggered into a little town called Hoge-li, and entered a run-down little tea shop called Temple Valley.

It had a big wood stove in the middle of the room. Three old men sat talking at one of the tables. Chris said it reminded him of cafes in Mongolia. The middle-aged waitress sat with us and chatted for a while. She had a sister in Los Angeles, near where Chris lives, and was very proud of her little town, pointing out that a famous baseball player was born there as well as a famous painter and other people I didn't know.

It was snowing when we set off for the last 9 kilometers to Magok-sa. We were tired by the time we arrived at a little restaurant at the base of the mountain where Magok-sa is located. Sangmin

sunim fell asleep while we were waiting for our food: bibimbap (rice and vegetables) and bean paste soup.

We were quickly ushered to two warm, cozy rooms, where we rested and started talking about Wonhyo and the question of the day.

Chris said all religions teach helping others and that he gets more satisfaction out of helping others than himself. "But you shouldn't neglect yourself. Just don't become obsessed with helping yourself at the expense of others."

I think you need to concentrate on both — helping yourself and helping others. The big question in my mind is how to develop motivation to help others and yourself.

Dec. 17

Prelude to the cave

Magok-sa to Sudeok-sa



Quote: “One who realizes that he is in delusion is not greatly deluded, and one who realizes that he is in darkness is not in total darkness.” — Wonhyo

Question: What does it mean?

Sangmin sunim woke up the three of us in our cozy little room in Magok-sa about 5:45 a.m. Breakfast was at 6:15. It was nice to have Sangmin sunim back with us. He always kept us organized and on schedule.

David had arrived late at Magok-sa the previous night. He had to satisfy the demands of his university teaching job and joined us whenever he could. The three of us — me, Chris and David — had slept in the same room and it was hot, but after I left to urinate I realized it was three or four degrees below zero outside. A thin layer of snow covered the beautiful temple grounds. A curved bridge over a frozen river caught my eye.

Sangmin sunim, who had visited the temple earlier, took us on a walk around the grounds, pointing out the main meditation hall, Magoksa Daegwang-bojeon, a wooden structure full of colorful designs and figures. He also guided us across a bridge, revealing a beautiful, river-wide waterfall.

We changed our plans again and decided to hold the closing ceremony on Sunday rather than Mon-

day. We thought that would enable people from Seoul to attend.

Our plan for the day was for me — suffering from tendonitis in my heel — to drive the car with the backpacks to our next temple, Sudeok-sa, while Chris, David and Sangmin sunim would walk the 25 kilometers. I had neither driven in Korea, nor used a GPS before. David gave me a short training session and I was off.

I found it remarkably easy until I arrived at Sudeok-sa, when I found that roads leading to the temple were blocked. I finally gave up, parked the car and walked up to the temple, stopping only to buy a Buddha meditation necklace for my girlfriend.

As I walked up the steps to the temple, a woman came down to meet me. It was Ailsun. Her name means “entering Nirvana.” She asked me if I was there for the templestay. Ailsun had spoken with Sangmin sunim before our arrival and she had been expecting me.

She showed me two rooms with a large adjoining common room, protected from the outside

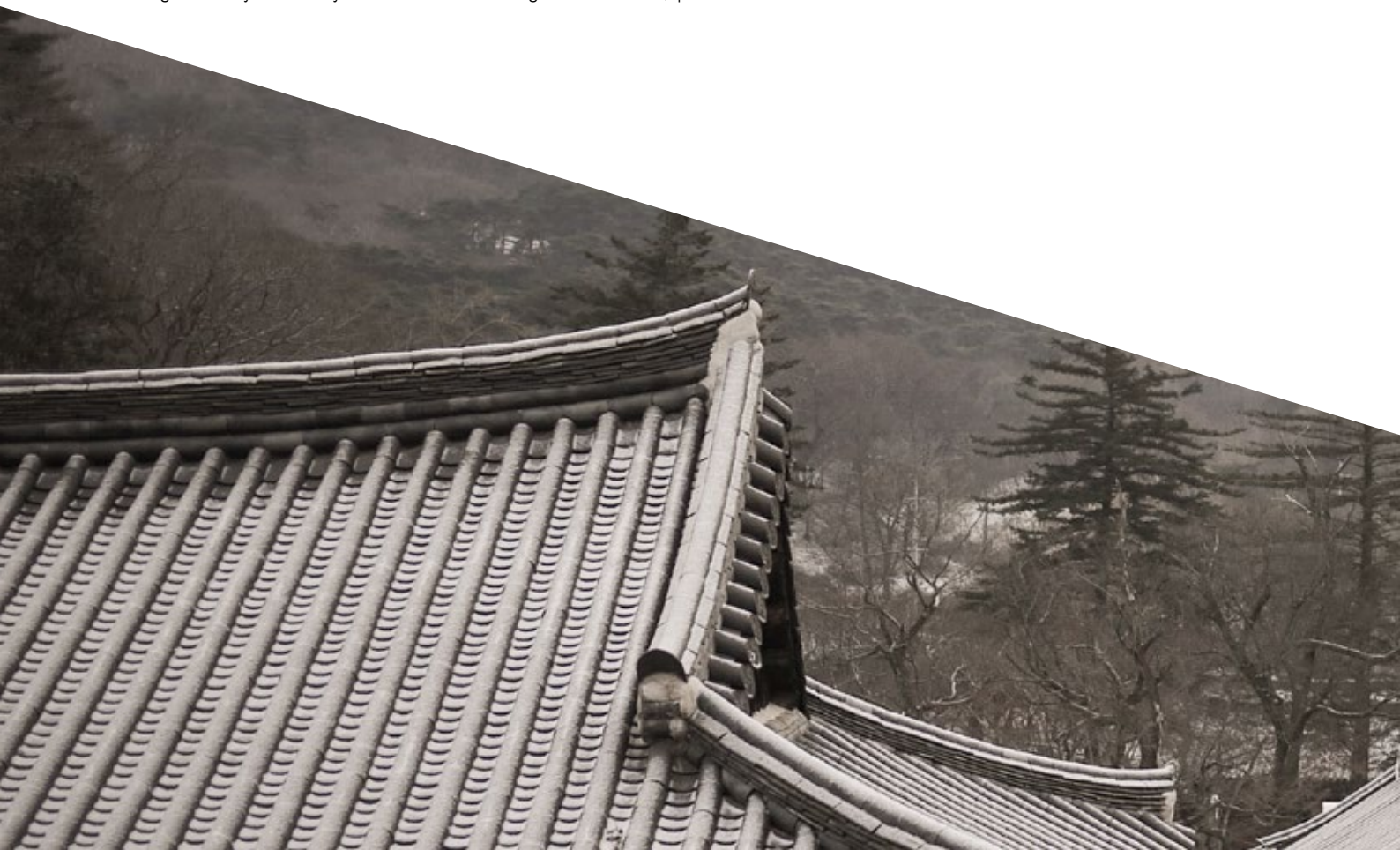
cold with a long corridor. I rested and wrote the daily blog, and then had dinner with her while we waited for my companions to arrive. She was surprised and happy about the pilgrimage in honor of Wonhyo.

We learned from her that Wonhyo's cave was not easy to find and she agreed to help us get a guide.

Later in the evening, Ailsun arranged tea for us in the common area and we planned the ceremony for the following day.

In the evening I thought about Wonhyo's quote, “One who realizes that he is in delusion is not greatly deluded, and one who realizes that he is in darkness is not in total darkness.”

It resonated with me because it parallels thoughts during meditation; one who is aware of his thoughts is conscious that he is thinking. Being aware that one is unaware is the beginning of the journey to awakening.



Dec. 18

Arriving at the sacred spot, realizing that the end is the beginning

Sudeok-sa to Wonhyo-bong

Quote: "When sewing clothes, a short needle is needed, and a long spear is useless. To avoid the rain, a small umbrella is needed, and a cover that spans the entire sky is useless. Therefore, small things should not be regarded as trivial. Depending on their true nature, both small and large things are precious." — Wonhyo

After traveling some 500 kilometers, we staggered the final steps to the site of Wonhyo's cave. It was about 2 p.m. and we were led by Park Wang-su.

Wonhyo's cave is high on Wonhyo-bong, a 510-meter mountain peak in Gyeonggi Province. It took us more than two hours to walk from the guide's residence to the site — through underbrush, along snow-covered paths, past slopes where the gray underbrush and brown leaves poked through the white snowy blanket, past breathtaking mountain views and finally to the site. It was a wonderful way to finish what had been a series of incredible hikes from temple to temple to minbak across the Korean Peninsula.

My fellow pilgrims asked me to go to the site alone for a few minutes to meditate. The cave is an unpretentious place, a dark hole gouged into a huge rock, a good shelter from rain, but not a comfortable place to spend a night. Apparently it was venerated as the home of a mountain spirit before Wonhyo used it to shelter.

We achieved the first re-enactment of Wonhyo's famous trek from Gyeongju to this cave near Seoul in more than 1,300 years. During a stormy night in the 7th century, after walking across the peninsula, Wonhyo had accidentally drunk putrid water from a human skull, starting a process that led to his enlightenment.

The others joined me in front of the cave: Chris McCarthy, a Ph.D. student who revived the Wonhyo project after it had fallen into a hiatus for several years; David Water-

meyer, a South African who teaches English at Dongguk University, one of the original planners of the project; Sangmin sunim, a Korean monk who provided invaluable service as an interpreter and the link between us and the temples; Rhea Metituk, a Canadian English teacher who joined on the pilgrimage whenever she could, bringing her good humor, organizing skills and curious outlook; Pannyabhoga, a monk from Myanmar, an old friend who used to lead a meditation group in Seoul; and Park Wang-su, an organic farmer and our guide for the last part of the pilgrimage.

We meditated. I thanked everyone for their efforts. Then we drank the pure spring water in memory of Wonhyo's achievement and in the hope that we also would gain the kind of self-understanding he did. In memory of their achievements, I gave to the pilgrims necklaces from which a small skull hung, a symbol of Wonhyo's enlightenment.

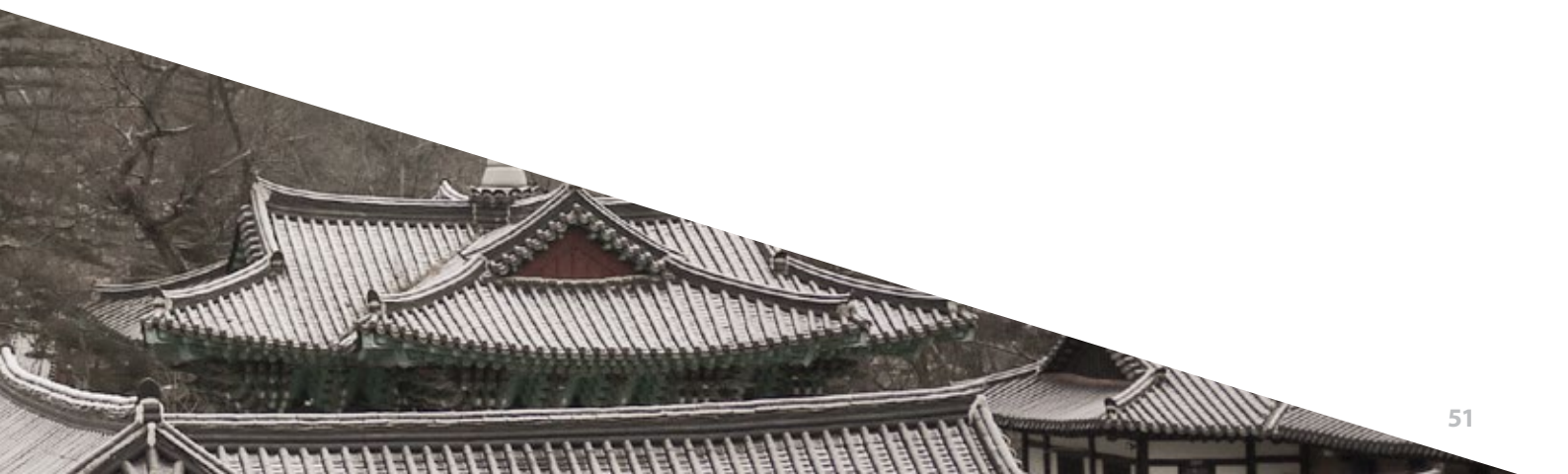
When we started the pilgrimage in Gyeongju, we emphasized the importance of the inner journey, and the great discovery that Wonhyo had made — that truth resides in the mind. We tried to use the physical journey as a tool to facilitate the inner journey, a journey toward self-understanding. That inner journey had been heightened by the daily hikes, sometimes lasting six or seven hours, and by our daily discussions about Wonhyo's teachings.

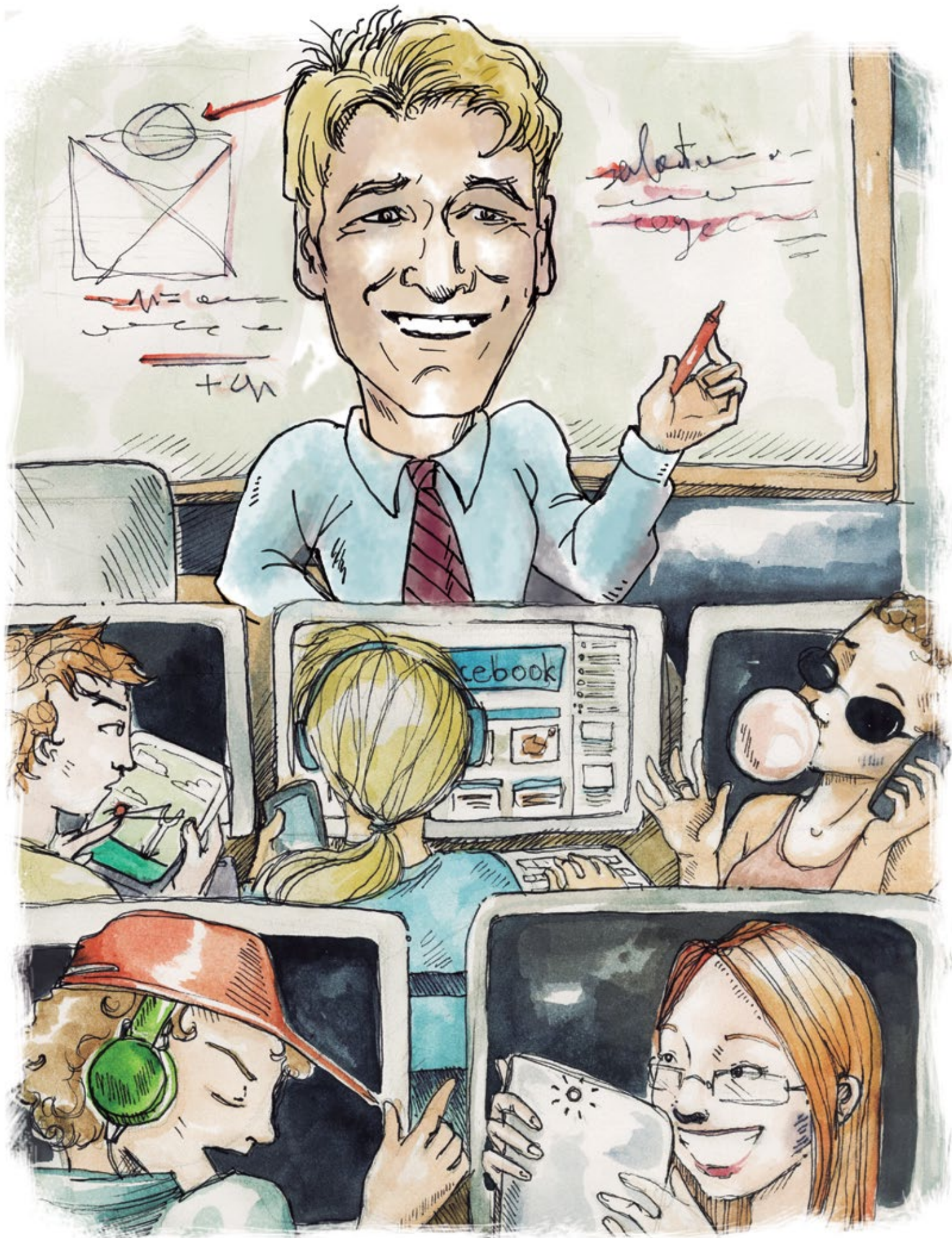
Now it was back to normal life and everyday problems. In my case it was dealing with my master's thesis in Buddhist studies at

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University in Bangkok, finding a new job, and settling family issues. But the pilgrimage had given me insights, new knowledge about myself that I hope will stay with me. Buddhism is a practical approach to life. It is based on experience, not theory. I had many experiences on the trail, and I came to realize more deeply than before that "small" things, as Wonhyo taught, are as important as "big" things: the sound of ice crackling under your feet, the smell of manure, the taste of ramen noodles and mulberry juice, the warm smile of the cleaning lady.

After walking back to the guide's house, where he plied us with more delicious organic food (he had served us lunch earlier) and fermented dandelion drinks, we piled into the back of his truck and he drove us to Sudeok-sa where we discussed the day's adventures with Ailsun, the templestay organizer. She had obtained Mr. Park as a guide for us and spent several hours helping us organize the last part of the trip.

Her kindness and helpfulness at the end of the trip complemented the warmth and kindness we had been shown on so many occasions during the pilgrimage. The pilgrimage itself had been inspired by goodwill and kindness shown by Koreans during our stay here. It was our way of saying thank you to Koreans for our experiences. The kindness shown to us on the trip demonstrated that the inspiration for the pilgrimage had a solid foundation. 🙏





Lost in distraction

Back in the American classroom

Column by John M. Rodgers / Illustration by Adela Ordoñez, Jason Burnett, Loston Wallace

As I stood in front of the class of 18, the first thing I noticed were electronic devices on almost every desk or in hands — cell phones, an iPad, a few laptops — and a look of “are you more important than this device?” on many faces.

➤ “Somewhere in Asia”... “Under west China”... “Northeast of Japan.” Among a classroom of 18 college freshmen, these were the three best answers I got when I asked the location of South Korea. Asked if they knew anything about the country, the Korean War and Psy’s song “Gangnam Style” were the only things anyone could summon. This constituted my return to the U.S. classroom — speaking to a series of college philosophy classes about my experiences in Korea. It was a rough landing.

In Korea, I taught at a respected prep school where the students had to arrive before 8 a.m., clean their classrooms, sit through lectures until 5 p.m. and then self-study under the guidance of a stick-wielding hall monitor until the final bell at 10:20 p.m. The kids were study machines. They had to be, or else. They’d been molded for a decade or more to fit into the desk, to consume and digest information and to, in as rapid a period as possible, ace an exam on that information.

In addition, though it started to decline in my final years, they exhibited reverence for the teacher and his or her subject of expertise. Attention was the norm, not the exception. If I was a bit late to class, I’d find a student at my office to see if everything was okay. In the hallways, students bowed to greet me. On Teachers’ Day, a holiday still taken seriously, students would join in song, honoring the teacher, and flowers were often given along with numerous other gifts (though the administration forbade any kind of money or expensive gifts due to a historical problem with bribes nationwide).

The respect for the teacher and learning in South Korea, at least where I taught, helped bring life (and order) to the classroom. If you know you’re going to arrive at class with ready students, it tends to put a little skip in your step. Moreover, it helps to know that there’s a desire to exercise knowledge. Ask a class full of Korean students where Sri Lanka or Tuvalu or Ecuador is and it’s a good bet many have an idea.

My first chance to enter an American classroom post-Korea occurred when an old philosophy professor suggested I speak to his freshman seminar class “On Doing Good and Living Well” about “intimacy” and the collective consciousness/unconsciousness as they related to my journey to and life in Asia. “Great,” I told him, “I’ll get something together right away.” At home I eagerly pieced together a presentation full of images from my years abroad mixed with keywords and anecdotes.

Naively expecting a classroom full of attentive kids, I arrived early for my 2:30 p.m. class in a blue dress shirt with an old red tie and khakis. I double-checked the technology, uploaded my PPT file and made sure everything was in order.

Not seeing the professor, I walked to his office, where he began riffing on Georges Bataille’s “Theory of Religion.” Noticing the clock (and me), the professor gathered himself and we strolled to class. “Lost intimacy,” he said as we walked into the classroom. It was a Bataille thing.

As I stood in front of the class of 18, the first thing I noticed were electronic devices on almost every desk or in hands — cell phones, an iPad, a few laptops — and a look of “are you more important than this device?” on many faces. If I’d been in Korea I would have torn into a lecture about manners and grades and responsibility, berating the students along the way. But it wasn’t my class so I just began with some images followed by general, what-the-heck-do-you-know-about-Korea questions.

Within two minutes one boy was messaging under his desk and two students were typing on their laptops (I don’t think they were taking notes). “Do you guys mind?” I asked, looking at the perpetrators, who only slowly returned their eyes, a look of apathy on their faces. But, minutes later, I’d lost them again so I just carried on. Subsequent classes differed little.

In the professor’s office after classes, I told him what would’ve happened in Korean classes, how those little brats would’ve had their clocks cleaned. “It’s unacceptable that they think it’s acceptable to act that way,” he said slowly (he always speaks contemplatively). “And it doesn’t matter if you ban them or not...they find a way to use ‘em,” he said, referring to the devices. Having taught for 37 years, the professor said this newest assault on learning (and manners) troubled him deeply. “When I retire I am going to write a book about the collapse of the American university,” he sighed.

As I left his office, my day complete, I once again heard him say, “Loss of intimacy,” and knew he was telling me something about the day, my presentation’s examples of overcoming obstacles to become closer to Korea, to Koreans, the inability of many students to understand this because they were in another place, split at best, and the general state of the American classroom (and perhaps America itself).

Ambling across the quiet campus, I breathed in the late autumn air, thinking of my intimacy with Korea, with friends, the land, the culture, my students. I thought of how students in Korea are forced to be intimate with school and teachers: spending most of their days with both, cleaning the place where they learn, respecting the people who instruct them, taking their work seriously. Surely, the American classroom could use a dose of this intimacy and austerity. 🇰🇷

DESTINATIONS

Edited by Josh Foreman / joshforeman@groovekorea.com



KOREA'S WINTER WONDERLAND

8 SNOWY SCENES THAT WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY

Story by Belle Nachmann

Photos by Douglas MacDonald, Emre Kanik, Paul Youn, Romain Boulesteix, Shah Altaf and Wesley Chang

The last of the golden leaves has fallen, taking with them the fading hint of fall. But travelers and photographers should not despair. Groove Korea has found six lensmen who have braved the snow and sub-zero temperatures to share with you some of the best destinations around the Republic of Korea.

Our list includes everything from the top of Korea at Hallasan National Park to an ice fishing festival in Gangwon Province.

If it's adventure you're after, scale the pathway to Dinosaur Ridge in Seoraksan National Park. For Korea's classic winter vista, take a short train ride to Gapyeong, Gangwon Province and a ferry to Nami Island.

For a day trip, there is plenty to choose from: Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon, Bukhansan National Park and Singheung-sa.

Hallasan National Park

Jeju-do

By Douglas MacDonald

Standing at the center of Jeju Island, Mt. Halla, at nearly 2,000 meters high, is the tallest mountain in Korea and Jeju's crown jewel. While beautiful all year round, it looks spectacular in winter.

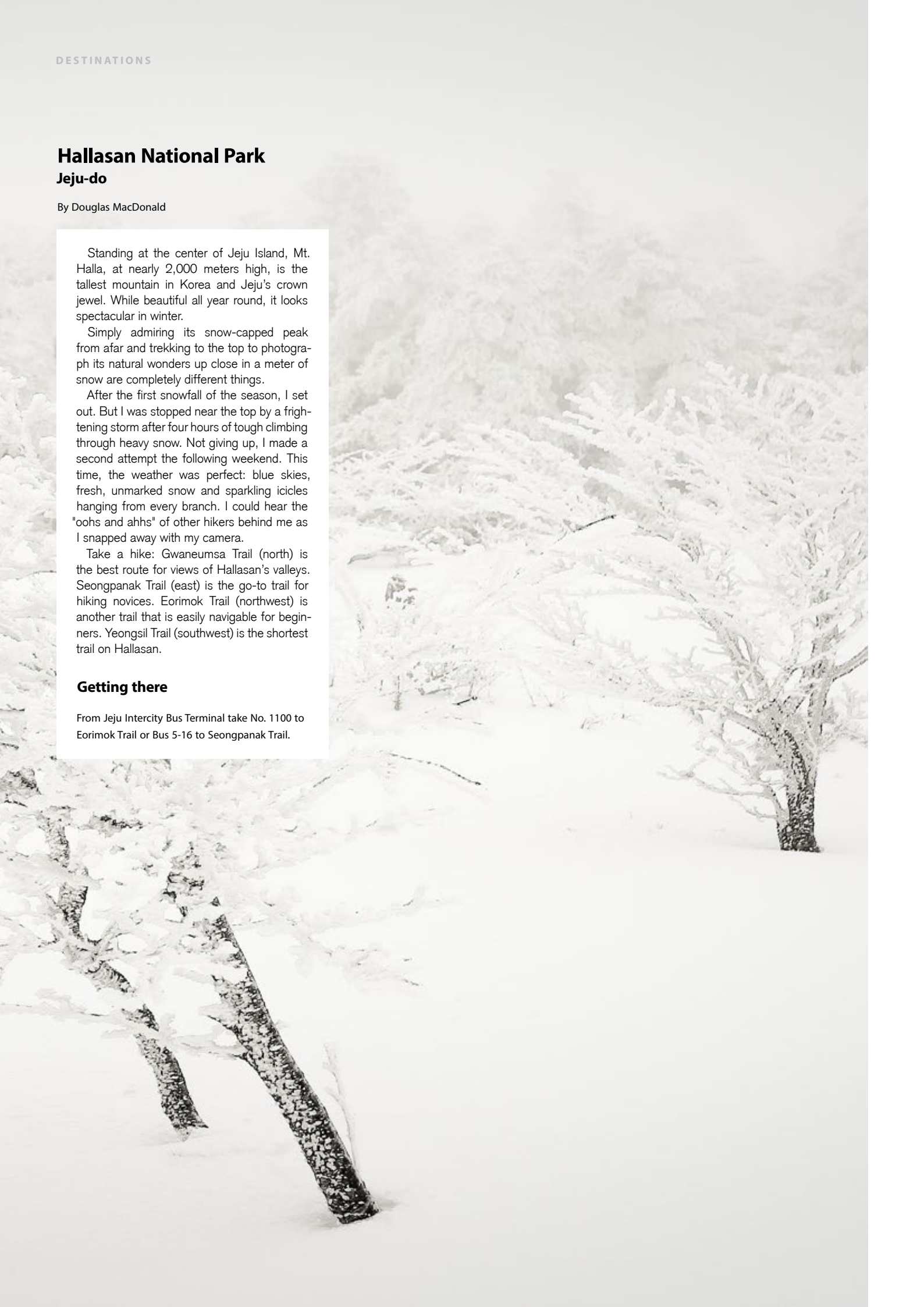
Simply admiring its snow-capped peak from afar and trekking to the top to photograph its natural wonders up close in a meter of snow are completely different things.

After the first snowfall of the season, I set out. But I was stopped near the top by a frightening storm after four hours of tough climbing through heavy snow. Not giving up, I made a second attempt the following weekend. This time, the weather was perfect: blue skies, fresh, unmarked snow and sparkling icicles hanging from every branch. I could hear the "oohs and ahhs" of other hikers behind me as I snapped away with my camera.

Take a hike: Gwaneumsa Trail (north) is the best route for views of Hallasan's valleys. Seongpanak Trail (east) is the go-to trail for hiking novices. Eorimok Trail (northwest) is another trail that is easily navigable for beginners. Yeongsil Trail (southwest) is the shortest trail on Hallasan.

Getting there

From Jeju Intercity Bus Terminal take No. 1100 to Eorimok Trail or Bus 5-16 to Seongpanak Trail.



Dinosaur Ridge

Seoraksan National Park

By Romain Boulesteix

Dinosaur Ridge in Seoraksan National Park is a popular autumn destination. But the area's true beauty comes out in the winter when it's covered in a blanket of snow. Dinosaur Ridge is also a popular choice for adventurers and lovers of the great outdoors.

The trail is 19 kilometers in length and takes about 14 hours to complete. It's not for beginners; so don't make Dinosaur Ridge your first time on a Korean mountain.

The main route will take you from Sogongwon Park to Osaek. Along the way you will pass Geumganggul Cave, Madeungnyeong Ridge, Gongnyongneungseon (Dinosaur Ridge), Huiungak Pavilion and Daecheongbong Peak.

At 1,798 m, Daecheongbong Peak is the highest point of Seoraksan.

On the morning I climbed Seoraksan, it was a -35°C with the wind chill. The weather was very clear on this fresh morning and it was a magical view from the top of Dinosaur Ridge, the valley and Sokcho and the East Sea in the background.

Getting there

From Seoul's Express Bus Terminal, take an express bus to Sokcho, which will take about 3.5 hours. From Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal/ Express Bus Terminal take bus 7 or 7-1 to Seorak-dong, the last stop.



Bukhansan National Park

Gyeonggi Province

By Romain Boulesteix

Bukhansan, meaning “mountain north of the Han River,” sits in northern Seoul. Its accessibility makes it a top destination year-round for tourists and locals.

There's a lot to see and do in Bukhansan National Park, but don't leave without seeing Bukhansanseong Fortress, which is designated Historic Site No. 162. It was originally built in the year 132 and was a strategic military stronghold during the period of the Three Kingdoms (57-668 AD). Later, it functioned as a primary line of defense against invading Mongolian troops in 1232. In 1711, during the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), it was upgraded to a stone fortress. Currently it is 7 m high and 8 kilometers long.

Try the Bukhansanseong Fortress hiking course. It's 3.4 kilometers in length and takes most people just under three hours to complete. It's not difficult. From the Bukhansanseong Hiking Support Center, you'll pass Daeseomun and Deungungak before reaching Baegundae.

Most visitors to Bukhansan are there for the purpose of going straight to the top — a point known as Baegunbong. The fastest way there is the Baegundae hiking course. At 1.9 kilometers long, it takes most people about an hour and 30 minutes. Start at Baegundae Hiking Support Center and pass Harujae and Baegun Shelter before reaching Baegundae.

Getting there

On the Seoul subway, take Line 4 to Gireum Station, Exit 3. From there take buses 110B or 143 and get off at the last stop.



Taebaeksan Provincial Park

Gangwon Province

By Romain Boulesteix

Watch the sun rise out of the East Sea from the tip of Mt. Taebaek.

It's an especially popular New Year's destination, when hundreds of people gather here to catch a glimpse of the first sunrise of the year. The mountain itself is well known for being sacred; Koreans hold rites at the top on the first day of each year.

The Munsubong Peak hiking trail is 7 kilometers in length and takes an able-bodied person three hours and 30 minutes, round trip. From Danggol Plaza, you will pass Jedanggol before getting to Munsubong Peak and then Cheonjedan. You'll see some stupas along the way, too.

Don't let the 7 kilometers intimidate you, the hike is rather easy.

Temples in Taebaeksan Provincial Park include Ulsa-sa, Baekdansa-sa, Manggyeong-sa, Baekdan-sa, Yuil -sa and Cheongwon-sa.

The park is a famous place in winter for its frozen, bare trees covered in snow, which Koreans call "snow flowers."

Getting there

From the East Seoul Terminal, take a bus to Taebaek. The bus operates every 30 minutes between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. It takes a little under 4 hours. Once in Taebaek you have two options to get to Taebaeksan Provincial Park: 1) Take a bus headed for Danggol and get off at Parking Lot No. 1 of the provincial park (27 buses a day, 25 minutes); and 2) Take a bus bound for Yeopyeong/Sangdong and get off at Baekdan/Yuil Temple (five times a day).



Hwaseong Fortress

Suwon, Gyeonggi Province

By Emre Kanik

Hwaseong Fortress was originally constructed from 1794 to 1796 by the king to honor his father. Now it is a popular tourist destination and was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 1997.

Most of the fortress' 6 kilometers of walls were destroyed during the Korean War (1950-1953), but 5.5 kilometers were restored from 1975 to 1979.

The fortress is Historical Monument No. 3.

The fortress has four gates: Jangnamun (north), Paldalmun (south), Changnyongmun (east) and Hwaseomun (west).

The pathways along the walls are good for long walks. The contrast with modern Suwon provides historical perspective and is ideal for contrast photography.

The fortress is built on a few hills, so in some places you have an excellent view of the city.

In winter, the pond freezes, making it a good spot to take photos. There are a few pavilions with beautiful ornaments as well.

Getting there

On the Seoul subway, take Line 1 to Suwon.

From there, take buses No. 2 or 7 and get off at Jongno sa(4)-geori. It is a 5-minute walk to the fortress.





Nami Island

Gangwon Province

By Paul Youn

Thanks to the Korean drama “Winter Sonata,” photos taken on Nami Island are some of the most sought after scenes for fans of the show. Though the popularity of the show has subsided, the island still attracts tourists from across Asia. Even if you’re not a fan — or you’ve never even heard of “Winter Sonata” — this place can be spectacular after a light snowfall. Its tree-lined pathways make for a perfect wintery walk.

Another benefit to visiting in the winter is you’ll avoid the throngs of people that crowd the island in the autumn (when lineups for the ferry can literally stretch for kilometers).

There are also a lot of animals — ostriches, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, ducks and peacocks — that inhabit the island.

The commercialization of the island slightly reduces its appeal, however. The island is now home to about a dozen restaurants, a museum and even “pensions,” or Korean cottages.

If you can swing it, the best time to go is mid-week when tourists are sparse.

Getting there

From Seoul, take a train to Gyeongju Station. The new station is only a 15-minute walk from the ferry wharf for the island.

Singheung-sa Seoraksan National Park

By Shah Altaf

Enter Singheung-sa, Seoraksan National Park, and step back in time. When I was there, it was serene and empty; perfect for exploring. What struck me were the vibrant colors of the doors and wooden artwork.

Sinheung-sa temple is the best-known temple in the area.

Explore: The Gwongeumseong Fortress—Sinheung-sa Hiking Course is relatively easy, and even has a cable car that will take you most of the way. After the 5-minute trip on the cable car, there is a 30-minute hike to Gwongeumseong Fortress, where you can see the ruins of Toto Castle (altitude 1,200m).

The Biseondae Cliff — Sinheung-sa hiking course is more invigorating, but still isn't challenging. It's about a 40-minute hike from Biseondae cliff to Geumganggul cave.

Getting there

From Seoul's Express Bus Terminal, take an express bus to Sokcho (4 hours). From Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal/Express Bus Terminal take bus 7 or 7-1 to Seorak-dong, the last stop. To get to the cable car from Sokcho, take city bus 7 (30 minutes). Get off at Seoraksan Sogongwon.



Pyeongchang Ice Fishing Festival

Gangwon Province

By Wesley Chang

The Pyeongchang Ice Fishing Festival runs from the end of December till the beginning of February.

This is a classic Korean winter festival. Join in the ice fishing yourself, or take photos of everyone else doing it. This is a great option for families, or people looking to try their hand at ice fishing for the first time. You can even cook what you catch.

There are also plenty of ice sculptures to amuse me.

Go tobogganing on one of the designated courses here (but be careful: these kids fly down the hill at supersonic speeds).

Pyeongchang is the host city of the 2018 Winter Olympics, so you might want to wander around and take in the town's wintry charm before it's overcome with construction and millions of tourists. 🇰🇷

Getting there

From Dong Seoul Bus Terminal, take an intercity bus bound for Pyeongchang via Jinbu. Get off at Jinbu Terminal. The festival is located within a 7-minute walk from the terminal. The festival runs between December and February every year.



DESTINATIONS

LEISURE CYCLING AT A KOREAN FLASH POINT

Baengnyeong Island on the Democracy 5

Story and Photos by Matthew C. Crawford





Baengnyeong Island, Gyeonggi Province —

➤ When I awoke rather late on Friday morning, the first thing I did was check the news. I intended to travel to the island of Baengnyeong, which is much closer to North Korea's mainland than it is to the South's.

I immediately began packing and was soon on the street, rolling my bicycle toward the subway station. There was a good chance that I could catch the 1 o'clock ferry.

Baengnyeong Island is the westernmost point in South Korea. Locating the island on a map is an alarming experience when you finally find it, tucked only 13 kilometers away from North Korea, but over 220 kilometers from the South Korean mainland. Looping around the island is the Northern Limit Line, the sea boundary drawn up by United Nations forces at the end of the Korean War. It is contested by the North. There are several other inhabited islands skirting this line, all serviced by daily passenger ferries to and from

the port of Incheon.

It had only been a few weeks since the two-year anniversary of the sinking of the Cheonan near Baengnyeong Island, and now a faulty rocket had flown almost right above the island before coming apart and scattering into the sea. The government had advised residents to evacuate for the launch, and this is why a cameraman from MBC news was filming the line of passengers at the boarding gate. I stood at the end of the line with my bicycle, reflecting on how even a queue in a ferry terminal can be newsworthy.

During the three-hour ferry ride, I shifted my attention between the mist and waves outside and the constant cycle of North Korea news on the Samsung screen. Many of the passengers were sleeping, but those who were awake were huddled in tight groups, tensely discussing the rocket.

Riding through a war zone

Arriving on the island, the first sight was a row of 45 South Korean flags lined up along the wharf. I wheeled my bike through the crowd until enough space opened up, and then rode until reaching what turned out to be the main town, Jinchon, and what turned out to be the best place to stay, the Culture Hotel. After checking in, there was still plenty of daylight left for an exploratory bike ride.

Far from being a remote wilderness, I found small towns, churches, farms, bomb shelters, marine bases and construction sites. While coasting slowly through a smoky back lane in the town of Bukpo, I came around a turn and saw a very old woman standing before a cement wall. Not expecting her to bow, I was caught off guard and nearly crashed by attempting a reciprocal bicycle bow.

In the evening, I rode back to the wharf as the fog was becoming

dark and heavy. While riding between a cliff and a tidal flat, a small, grubby dog came out of the mist in an insane pursuit. Thinking that the dog was rabid, I pedaled with all the strength I had left, and didn't see it again until I was locking my bike in front of a restaurant. I braced myself for an attack but the dog just stood there, staring and panting cordially.

Leaving the dog outside, I entered a room full of ornamental stones and jars of herbal alcohol, where I ordered the cheapest item on the menu. This was the 10,000 won seodeol stew. Soon an old woman and her daughter brought out the bowl of peppery broth. Fishing through the contents with my chopsticks, I realized that "seodeol" means "fish bones."

During the three-hour ferry ride, I shifted my attention between the mist and waves outside and the constant cycle of North Korea news on the Samsung screen. Many of the passengers were sleeping, but those who were awake were huddled in tight groups, tensely discussing the rocket.

One of the island's air force bases. Baengnyeong also has a heavy concentration of marines.



A restaurant at Dumunjin Port



A bell from the original Joonghwadong Church.





Riding on sand

Baengnyeong Island is large enough to discourage a walking tour, so most visitors rent a car. There are some stretches of road running along the ocean, but most of the rocky cliffs are kept at a distance by pine forests, barbed wire fences and landmines.

The entire circumference of the island, in fact, is fortified with trenches and barbed wire; at points there are sentry booths and pieces of heavy artillery pointing out toward the sea. The smaller beaches are walled off, but always with gated entryways through which leisure seekers may venture, stepping out onto the sands or the pebbles with a strangely mixed feeling of exposure and freedom.

On Saturday afternoon, by the time I reached Dumujin Port at the northwest point of the island, I had seen only one tour bus of South Korean tourists. I was now only a short walk away from the prime attraction and it was completely deserted. The tourist map from the motel mentioned King Gwanghaegun of the 17th century and his pronouncement that the Dumujin cliffs are "the supreme artwork of the old god." Leaning against the cliffside railing, I could see that the old god had pressed together crumbling layers of rock to create giant, bottle-shaped structures which he planted in the sea. Next

to these, he had arranged rock daggers and columns and tilted shelves. For a brief period the sun broke through the clouds and the sea turned emerald green.

The next several kilometers were hilly, and I began to feel a rubbery sensation in my legs. I passed two other cyclists before locating Joonghwadong Church, rebuilt on the site of the second Presbyterian church in Korea. The first was built not far from here, on what is now the North Korean mainland. More inclined toward nature worship, I continued on to the island's two most unusual beaches.

Kongdol Beach is composed of small pebbles the size, shape and shade of lima beans. The beach stretches on for quite a distance, but the next beach, continuing as far as the wharf, is even longer. This is Sagot Beach; its fine white sand is so compact that the beach has served as a natural landing strip. Seeing that locals use it as an open road, I decided to finish my seven-hour circuit of the island with a victory ride on the sand. The surface proved to be remarkably compact – my thin tires left their grooved signature on the surface and nimbly carried me back to the line of 45 South Korean flags.

At 1:30 in the afternoon, almost six hours late and with very poor visibility, the boarding walkway was finally set in place and the jostling crowd was given the signal to board. I watched from the windows of the Democracy 5 as the island disappeared into the fog, sinking into its uncertain future.

Riding through mist

I discovered that Baengnyeong Island is not nearly as terrifying as the map and the news reportage had led me to believe. By Sunday morning I had forgotten all about North Korea and its dysfunctional rockets. I had waved off the risk of bites by rabid dogs, of falling off my bike while bowing to the elderly, and of choking on fish bones.

Instead, I had come to realize that the real danger of a trip to Baengnyeong Island is the mist. There is a high chance of being

stranded here and missing work on Monday morning. At 1:30 in the afternoon, almost six hours late and with very poor visibility, the boarding walkway was finally set in place and the jostling crowd was given the signal to board. I watched from the windows of the Democracy 5 as the island disappeared into the fog, sinking into its uncertain future. 🌫️

Getting there

From Incheon International Port's passenger terminal, it takes up to five hours to get to Baengnyeong Island. The high-speed ferry makes stops at Socheong Island and Daechong Island. The price is 55,900 won.

On the island

Once on the island, you can rent a car, take public buses and taxis.

Where to stay

Munhwa Motel
Phone: (017) 337-7001 or (032) 836-7001
Online: 0328367001.co.kr

Baengnyeong Noble Pension
Phone: (017) 702-0238
Email: sjsook12@hanmail.net

Culture Hotel
Phone: (017) 702-0238
Email: sjsook12@hanmail.net

Ferry Contact

Jindo Ferry (888-9600)
Cheonghaejin (884-8700)



Museum of Medical Missionary Works

A NEW VIEW OF DAEGU

'City of Apples' is rich in history, culinary treats

Column by Sean Choi

➤ Daegu is a hotbed of conservatism, but it's also the location of Korea's first noraebang (karaoke room) and its populace is more open-minded than most give them credit for. Its nightlife is bursting at the seams in some places and foodies will have a field day here.

Despite some of its unique cultural activities, many Koreans and expats alike still scoff at the idea of spending a night here. "Ugly"; "gray"; "why Daegu?" — tell a Korean that you're going to Daegu for the weekend and that's what you can expect to hear in response.

I spent 20 years of my life in the City of Apples, as it is known — and I'm here to challenge some of the common perceptions about this city and its people. I'm going to help you rediscover some of the city's best attractions, restaurants and night spots.

We welcome feedback — email_editor@groovekorea.com with praise, criticism or suggestions.



Dongindong Galbijim

But despite some of its unique cultural activities, many Koreans still scoff at the idea of spending a night here. "Ugly"; "gray"; "why Daegu?" — tell a Korean that you're going to Daegu for the weekend and that's what you can expect to hear in response.

THE OLD ALLEYS

Our tour this month begins at the Old Alleys near Gyeongsang-gam-yeong (Gyeongsang Provincial Governor's Office) in downtown Daegu. It's a step back to Korea circa 1912, but you still experience everyday modern conveniences. The first architectural marvel you'll come across is Gyesan Cathedral, the first Gothic-style cathedral in the Southern Yeongnam region and designated Historical Site No. 290.

Further down the alley, you'll find the Museum of Medical Missionary Works. The building, which used to be a house for missionaries, was recently renovated. On display are their materials; everything from living items to medical supplies.

Next are the old homes of Lee Sang-hwa and Seo Sang-don. Lee Sang-hwa is a famous poet who resisted Japanese colonialism (1910-1945). His spirit still lingers in the quiet rooms of his well-preserved home, where he wrote poems until his death. Seo Sang-don was a nationalist and played an important role in spreading the National Debt Repayment Movement in 1907.

Those interested in commerce might want to visit the Samsung-san-ghoe site, where the multi-billion-dollar company had its humble beginning as a trading company in 1938.

Across from the Samsung founder's bronze statue stands the Daegu Opera House. Built exclusively for opera, it represents Daegu's high regard for the arts. With a seating capacity of 1,508, the four-story building features a magnificent outside appearance.

The Old Alleys tour ends at Yangnyeongsi Street, which is lined with oriental medicine shops — we'll have to save a tour of this street for another issue.

CUISINE

Most Koreans do not hold Daegu's cuisine in the highest regard. Neither adjacent to the sea nor abundant with produce, historically the city's people had to come up with their own recipes to preserve food. That's why Daegu's food is spicy and rich in seasoning. If you don't like your food spicy, then steer clear of dinner "Daegu style."

My first recommendation is galbijjim (spicy beef stew), which can be found in the Dongin-dong area. You'll find one street lined with restaurants that have the stew's Korean name (갈비찜) on their signboards.

One day I was desperate for Dongin-dong-style Galbijjim, so I called 114 and asked for all restaurants in Seoul with "Dongin-dong" in their names. After calling 14 places, I eventually settled for one near Sinsa Station. The biggest difference between Daegu's and Seoul's galbijjim is that Daegu's is spicier and uses a lot more garlic.

Another of Daegu's unique dishes is mungtigi, which is similar to beef sashimi (yukhae). Properly matured raw meat has a particular texture and taste. It's served best when dipped in gochujang, a special sauce made of red pepper paste, garlic, and more garlic. You'll have to travel to Daegu if you want the authentic experience, as I have only left Seoul's mungtigi restaurants disappointed. 🍴



Gyesan Cathedral



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GALAXY S III

Wintery escape

Hwacheon ice festival is just 2 hours from Seoul

Photos courtesy organizers

➤ Escape the city's winter purgatory and explore Korea's countryside.

The village of Hwacheon, Gangwon Province, is transformed into a winter wonderland. In January, this town of 25,000 people comes to life with one of Korea's most popular winter festivals: Hwacheon Sancheoneo Ice Festival.

Activities are varied. Ice sledding, ice fishing, ice soccer, mini-ice hockey and skating are popular attractions.

"This is unique theme experience festival full with good shows and 40 or about various experience programs," according to the website. 🇰🇷

Festival name: Hwacheon Sancheoneo Ice Festival

Date: Jan. 5-27

Where: Hwacheon, Gangwon Province

Directions: Take the Gyeongchun Line from Cheongnyangni or Seongbuk stations to Chuncheon Station. Go to the bus stop next to the train station and catch a Hwacheon-bound bus (departs every 30 minutes).



Highlights (all activities are open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Ice Sledding

10,000 won families, 5,000 won for individuals. (It's a deposit, but you get a gift certificate back, not your cash)

Skating

Rent skates to zip around the frozen river.

Bobsleigh

5,000 won for individuals. (It's a deposit, but you get a gift certificate back, not your cash)

Snow sculpture

21 cities from 11 nations have entries.

Ice soccer & mini-ice hockey

Place: Chulleongdari bridge (upstream); make reservation early.

Snow sledding

5,000 won for individuals. (It's a deposit, but you get a gift certificate back, not your cash)

Take the plunge

26th Busan Polar Bear Swim to be held in January

Photos courtesy organizers

Festival name: Busan Polar Bear Swim

Date: Jan. 20

Where: Haeundae Beach, Busan.

Directions: From Busan Station, take bus No. 1005 (express) to Haeundae Beach, near the Novotel Ambassador Hotel. By subway, get off at Haeundae Station (Line 2, Exit 5) and walk straight for 10 minutes.



The festival's website says it aims to be the best winter festival in East Asia. Whether or not it is successful, the Busan Polar Bear Swim is one of Korea's most unique experiences.

➤ Though you may have the cojones to take part in the annual Busan Polar Bear Swim, there's a distinct possibility you may not have any after jumping in the frigid waters off Haeundae Beach.

For adrenaline junkies, the annual event is a definite must-try while you are here on the peninsula. The festival's website says it aims to be the best winter festival in East Asia. Whether or not it is successful, the Busan Polar Bear Swim is one of Korea's most unique experiences.

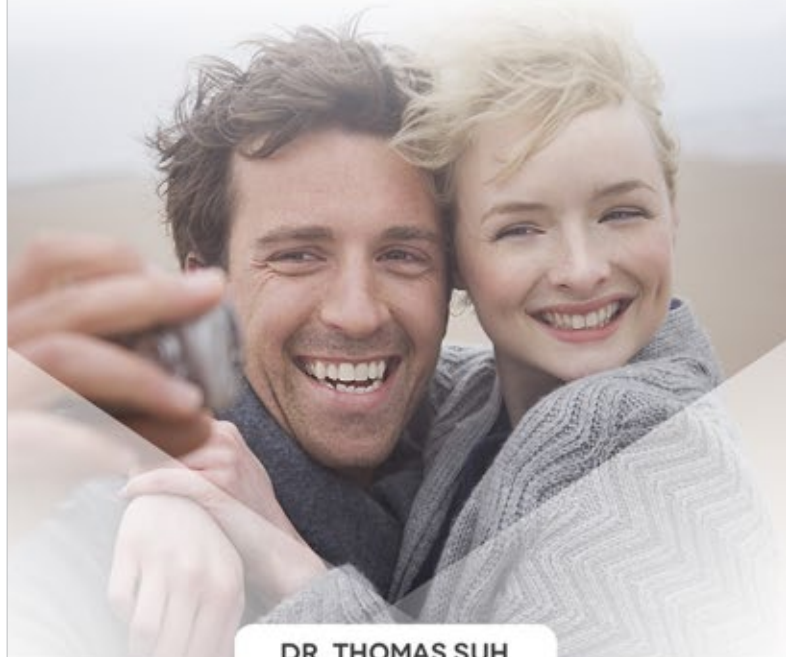
It will mark the 26th annual organized chilly dip and it is being hosted by the Busan Ilbo and the Haeundae Culture Tourism Agency. Sponsors are Busan Metropolitan City and the Haeundae-gu office.

The registration fee is 20,000 won and must be done online. Registration is from mid-December to late-December and the swim is scheduled to take place on Jan. 20 from 8 a.m to 12 p.m. For further information call the Busan Ilbo at 051-461-4437-8 and for registration visit <http://bear.busan.com>.

The Polar Bear Swimming Competition started in 1988 with 100 participants. It wasn't until after 2000 that it became more widely known throughout Korea, attracting over 1,000 competitors for the first time. 🇰🇷



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HO, HO, HOLD THE KIMCHI

19 PLACES TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

By Groove Korea, Jonathan Pratt, Sunny Pratt
www.facebook.com/sunnysmartshopping.korea

> Are you in the mood for a Christmas feast, but don't know where to start? Groove Korea teamed up with SunnySmartShopping to bring you this list of Seoul's best holiday dinners. From your classic turkey and fixings to oakwood-smoked salmon and Australian beef, there's something on this list for all price levels.

Wolfhound Pub

Enjoy Christmas dinner with your friends at one of Seoul's most popular pubs. Book your seat soon, as this special Wolfhound event fills up fast.

When: Dec. 25, 3 p.m.

Menu: Breads, soups, salads, turkey, stuffing, sausages, chicken, seafood, potatoes, rice, noodles, vegetables, desserts and more.

Price: TBD

For reservations: wolfhoundpub@gmail.com

Directions: From Itaewon subway station, go out Exit 4 and double back. At the intersection, turn right. Walk straight and turn right down the first alley and Wolfhound is on your right about 40 meters down.

Suji's

Suji's in Itaewon is offering their traditional Suji's Famous Christmas Dinner Buffet.

When: Dec. 25

Menu: Turkey and all the fixings

Price: 40,000 won (price varies according to sets)

For reservations: (02) 794-7024

Directions: Itaewon Station, Exit 2. Walk toward Noksapyeong Station on the MacDonald's side of the street; go right to the end of the street and turn left; Suji's is right around the corner on the second floor.



Beer O'Clock

Beer O'Clock in Sincheon has informed us that they will be having an afternoon dinner on either Saturday or Sunday.

When: Dec. 22, afternoon
Menu: Turkey and all the fixings
Price: TBD
For reservations: (02) 3339-733
Location: Sinchon station, Exit 1. Go straight and take your first right. Go through a busy intersection, count three alleys and turn left. It's on the left.

Big Rock

Big Rock in Gangnam is another place that puts on a classic Christmas dinner every year. Expect some great food in a cosy, freindly atmosphere.

When: Dec. 25 (tentative)
Menu: Turkey and all the fixings
Price: 40,000 won (price may change)
For reservations: (02) 539-6650
Location: Gangnam Station, Exit 7. Take a right and go behind the Starbucks; go straight up the hill without turning; the brewery will be on your left.

Okitchen

Okitchen offers on a great spread at Christmas every year.

When: Dec. 24, 25
Menu: "Christmas special" but specifics are pending
Price: 80,000 won
For reservations: (02) 797-6420
Location: Itaewon Station, Exit 2, go straight and make third right You'll see OK2 Kitchen on your left.

La Table

Here's another turkey alternative. Ibis Hotel's La Table has a Chrstmas menu based on "well-being" Bulgarian dishes.

When: Dec. 24-31
Bulgarian buffet: Bulgarian salad, moussaka, spinach cheese dish, grilled pork with Bulgarian sauce
For reservations: (02) 3011-8120
Location: Solleung Station, Line 2, Exit 1 and walk to the east by Teheran-ro for 10 minutes till you reach the hotel situated behind POSCO.

Do it yourself

Hadden House Market
Turkey prices: 8 kg (100,338), 9 kg (113,940)
Phone: (02) 794-0511

Hannam Market
Phone: (02) 702-3313

Costco
Locations in Seoul, Ilsan
www.costco.co.kr

Atrium Café

Splurge at the Atrium Café for a full course turkey dinner. Make a reservation or get left out in the cold.

When: Dec. 24-25
Menu: Christmas food, main is turkey and steak
Price: 72,000 won / 82,000 won per person (plus tax)
For reservations: (02) 2287-8270
Location: Between Line 3 Nokbeon and Hongje Stations at Grand Hilton

Chef Meili

Chef Meili puts together a reliable and affordable Christmas menu every year. Dine in or take out. Get a group of about 23 people together, and they will prepare it any time in December.

When: Dec. 24-25
Menu: Turkey and all the fixings
Price: 40,000 won (price varies according to sets)
For reservations: (02) 794-7024
Location: Located beside Gecko's Terrace, across from the Hamilton Hotel in Itaewon

Oliva in Daejeon

Looking for an alternative to your traditional turkey dinner? Oliva in Daejeon (previously called Swan Restaurant) has put together a menu centered around lobster and "hanwoo," or Korean beef.

When: Dec. 21-25
Price: 99,200 won (no tax)
For reservations: (042) 867-5141
Location: Daejeon Yousung-gu, Doroung-dong 3F, Deajeon Kotrex building

The Mezzanine

This is another on-base option. Located at Dragon Hill Lodge, The Mezzanine offers an early Christmas luncheon this year.

When: Dec. 12-13
Menu: Holiday buffet
Price: \$16
For reservations: 790-0016 ext. 6445
Location: Inside the Yongsan U.S. Army base at Dragon Hill Lodge

Alpine Deli

Available throughout December, Alpine Deli's Christmas gift basket is a perfect gift to bring to a party.

When: Dec. 1-31
Menu: Vanilla, almond, cinnamon cookies, British style fruitcake, chocolate Santas, and gingerbread houses
Price: various
Phone number: (02) 287-8274
Location: Between Nokbeon and Hongje stations at Grand Hilton Hotel

Buffet Restaurant

Located at Grand Hilton Hotel, go upscale at the Buffet Restaurant with a unique take on Christmas dinner.

When: Dec. 1-31
Buffet: Smoked duck with Hungarian salad and mango chutney, beef fondue and Christmas dessert.
Price: lunch 60,000 won, dinner 68,000 won (plus tax)
For reservations: (02) 2287-8271
Location: Between Nokbeon and Hongje stations

MoMo café

Save some money and skip the restaurant turkey: MoMo Café's Sky Garden Barbeque promises not to disappoint. If you book a year-end party, they will give you a voucher for 10 percent off of all drinks on your bill.

When: Through Dec. 31
Menu: The Sky Garden Barbeque consists of fish, beef, main dishes, salad, plus a seasonal dessert
Price: 45,000 won (plus tax)
For reservations: (02) 2638-3024
Location: Yeongdeungpo Market Station, Line 5, Exit 4

The Deli

Either sit down in The Deli at Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan U.S. Army base or they're willing to deliver it as far as Gate 1 or Gate 13 for pickup.

When: Throughout December
Menu: Turkey and all the fixings
Price: \$109.95
Phone: (02) 790-0016 ext. 6445.
Location: Inside the Yongsan U.S. Army base at Dragon Hill Lodge

Sables

Sables is as reliable as it gets for Christmas grub, but you'll have to be signed in by an American serviceperson to gain entry to the Yongsan U.S. Army base.

When: Dec. 24-25
For reservations: (02) 790-0016 ext. 6445
Location: Inside the Yongsan U.S. Army base at Dragon Hill Lodge

Banquet Hall at Renaissance Hotel in Seoul

Renaissance Hotel's Banquet Hall has three sets to choose from. A great option for those not into turkey, Banquet Hall centers their Christmas menu around oakwood smoked salmon, Australian beef and smoked duck breast.

When: Dec. 1-31
For reservations: (02) 555-0501
Set A: 70,000 won for Renaissance style oakwood smoked salmon, capers, grilled Australian rib eye beef with peppercorn sauce, bread, salad, soup, dessert and tea.
Set B: 75,000 won for seasonal butter vegetables, potatoes, homemade shrimp terrine with smoked salmon and honey mustard sauce, mixed green vegetables and smoked turkey with cranberry dressing, Australian beef tenderloin and red wine sauce, gianduja chocolate mousse with raspberry sauce, bread, salad, soup, dessert and tea.
Set C: 80,000 won for smoked duck breast with fruit chutney and orange sauce, Australian beef tenderloin, baked king prawn with port wine sauce, vegetables, potatoes, bread, salad, soup, dessert and tea
Location: Yeoksam Station, Exit 8, and Seolleung Station, Exit 5, on Line 2 at Renaissance Hotel in Seoul. 📍

The best fish 'n' chips in Seoul

Battered Sole stays true to authentic standards

Story and Photos by Josh Foreman





➤ For a truly good curry, go to India. For real biscuits and gravy, visit the American South. And for genuine fish ‘n’ chips, take a trip to ... Sinchon.

That’s right. Sam Griffiths, 24, and Charlie McAlpine, 23, are the reason. Disgusted by sub-par fish ‘n’ chips in their native England and driven by hallucination, the two young men headed to Seoul about a year ago. For the last three months, they’ve been dishing out the most famous dish of their native land, taking care to do it the right way. The way it might have been dished out in England 100 years ago. Or maybe even better than that.

The pair serve the fish ‘n’ chips at Battered Sole, their second-floor pub in the heart of Sinchon.

Theirs is a story of youthful idealism. They became friends while studying at the University of London. Fish ‘n’ chips in London are either low-quality or too expensive, they said. To get the good stuff, McAlpine began experimenting with home-made fish ‘n’ chips. His recipe became locally famous, and friends started dropping by just to get a taste. One day, flu-ridden in a fevered half-sleep, McAlpine had a vision: I must make fish ‘n’ chips in Seoul.

McAlpine does have some connection to Seoul; he studied here for two summers when he was in his late teens. Also, his mom is Korean. Gri-

ffiths has none. Neither can speak Korean. They do have a third partner: a Korean businessman who was an acquaintance of Griffiths’ father. But mostly, they’re starting from scratch — a scenario which also happens to be what makes their food so good.

McAlpine and Griffiths reject just about every notion held by the fish friers of modern England. They don’t make their batter from a powder; they don’t buy pre-cut fish fillets. They don’t use potatoes from a bag. They even go so far as to make tartar sauce from scratch, emulsifying oil and le-

“One day, flu-ridden in a fevered half-sleep, McAlpine had a vision: I must make fish ‘n’ chips in Seoul.”

mon juice and egg yolks with a food processor. The result is labor-intensive food, but food they are proud of.

Even their ingredients are more authentic than what fish ‘n’ chips eaters in England get. Stocks of Atlantic cod, the fish traditionally used to make the dish, are dangerously low. As a result, English fish ‘n’ chip shops have turned to Pacific cod, a similar and more abundant fish. Whereas

Pacific cod must make a journey of thousands of miles to end up on English tables, it’s native to the waters around Korea. McAlpine and Griffiths buy theirs in huge fillets from a market near World Cup Stadium.

The duo make their beer batter from scratch and fry fillets to order. They’re especially proud of the technique they use to fry their chips. The chips are “triple-cooked,” which means they’re boiled, then cooled, then fried, then cooled again, then fried again at high heat. Triple-cooking increases the “dry matter” on the outside of the chips, making them especially crisp. Their fish and chips both have the deep-golden-brown color of properly fried food. And of course, in true British form, they serve their fish ‘n’ chips with mushy peas.

“To get a good plate of food, all you need is to get good ingredients and cook them correctly,” McAlpine said.

The pair has also put its love of England into the design of the shop. The walls are slate-gray and covered with photos of The Who and The Rolling Stones. There’s a picture of the Queen, and one of the Duke of Edinburgh.

They said they designed the restaurant to be the kind of place they’d like to hang out in. And they do hang out there, sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day, making uncompromising food in a strange land. 🍷

Getting there

To get to Battered Sole, walk straight out of Sinchon Station Exit 3. Continue north for about four blocks and turn left down the alley just before Starbucks. Battered Sole is on the right.

(02) 322-8101



As the ingredients differ from region to region, the name becomes more significant – okonomi literally means “what you want,” and that’s exactly what you get at Fugetsu.



What you want, at Fugetsu

MILDLY
RAVENOUS

By Mishka Grobler

> In the heart of Seoul lies a district known for its shopping, street markets and restaurants: Myeong-dong, an area where Japanese is more commonly spoken than English and vendors busily sell their wares.

Here, wedged between racks of clothes and the latest fashions, is Fugetsu – Korea’s answer to the Japanese influence that has survived the country’s history to become a subculture. The restaurant’s specialty is the best that Osaka, Japan, has to offer in culinary art.

Drinks range from Asahi to sake to fruit soju mixes, but this isn’t why the crowds line up for the place. What really gets the diners going is the okonomiyaki, a Japanese-style pancake made of flour, eggs, cabbage, a range of other vegetables and your meat of choice.

As the ingredients differ from region to region, the name becomes more significant – okonomi literally means “what you want,” and that’s exactly what you get at Fugetsu. The menu is

based around a few main ingredients – egg, pork, squid, cabbage and sauce – and the combinations offered make Fugetsu worth a visit.

The sets include fried noodles, slices of meat, egg rolls and of course, okonomiyaki. If you’re keen for Korean barbecue with a Japanese flavor (and all the work done for you) Fugetsu is the place to be.

Along with the usual pleasantries, waiters mix the okonomiyaki before placing it on a hot plate while you watch and wait for it to be ready. While the katsuobushi toppings (smoked tuna shavings) curl up, the egg rolls and noodle dishes are ready to eat with a set of chopsticks and your very own spatula.

Fugetsu Myeong-dong is incredibly popular with the locals, and arriving early will ensure you’re not handed a number and told to join the queue. Otherwise, expect a bit of a wait, even with the quick turnover. Either way, a delicious meal lies ahead.



Getting there:

Walk out of Myeongdong Station, Exit 6 (Uniqlo) and turn left. Turn right after Zara, next to Forever 21. Fugetsu is located on your left, on the second floor. A cheerful pig adorns the door.

Fugetsu also has branches in Hongdae, Gangnam and Mapo-gu.

KITCHEN SHOCK

By Lisa Pollack

Ingredient:

Chestnuts



> Wafting over from fiery cauldrons, the rustic aroma catches you off guard while waiting for the light to change. About this time of year, street vendors abound with freshly roasted chestnuts. Skins split, tasty heart exposed, the hardest part's already done.

A member of the nut family, the chestnut is set apart by its comparatively low oil content. This trait lends itself to a starchy consistency when cooked. Usually boiled or roasted before serving, a cooked chestnut carries a robust sweetness to round out any dish.

Coming from a tree with roots in Europe, as well as Korea and China, a serious blight took hold in the 1700s. The fungus wiped out the prevalent European forests. This turn of events led the nuts to be replaced by potatoes in many of each region's recipes. In the early 1900s, a similar fate befell trees sent abroad to America, the result being that Asia had the market cornered.

Today, chestnuts hold a presence in Korean cuisine, but have somewhat taken a backseat overseas. Known to many only by way of Nat King Cole, they're a seasonal treat that's somewhat tricky to seek out — tricky to peel, as well.

In Korea, we're blessed to live at ground zero. In addition to whole, raw chestnuts, there's a choice to buy ones with the handiwork already done. Packages of raw, peeled nuts are ample, ready to be roasted or boiled to your heart's content. It's even possible to find them pre-cooked and vacuum-sealed in your neighborhood shop.

This winter, try tossing chestnuts into your favorite holiday stuffing. They're delectable pureed into soups, or also try them whipped up as a mousse for a new take on dessert. Bon appétit! 🍴



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By Read Urban

Find this and other recipes at www.groovekorea.com

An after-dinner delight that's easy and reliable

➤ I don't do desserts, I don't bake cookies, I don't decorate cakes, and I sure as hell don't put icing on cupcakes. I couldn't be bothered. Cheesecake, mousse, pie — these are all things that I leave up to the pros (hopefully a local bakery). So, when coming up with homemade desserts for guests, I am usually up the creek without a paddle. I do have a few things stashed away, a couple of tricks up the sleeve, but they don't come out often. This month I am revealing one of those recipes: a failsafe in my repertoire. Red wine-poached pears are the perfect winter dessert, as well as being an impressive end to any meal. The recipe is simple and it takes no time to execute.

Poached eggs are probably the best-known poached dish, but you can poach almost anything if you set your mind to it. The technique refers to gently cooking an ingredient in simmering liquid. Anyone who has poached an egg before knows that you use water and a tablespoon or two of vinegar. When you start experimenting with poached fruit, however, the liquid becomes much more important. Red wine is a traditional flavor for poached fruits, and this

recipe is no exception. I prefer a shiraz or cabernet sauvignon in this recipe, but these are my own personal preferences.

Asian pears are the best pears to use in this recipe, so we are in luck. They are firm and hold their shape when you poach them. I also think they are a bit more forgiving than the humble Bosc or Bartlett (even if they may take a bit longer to cook).

I prefer my pear almost entirely cooked through but with a bit of a bite, similar to al dente pasta. You might want a different texture, so test the fruit with a paring knife several times while it is poaching.

Poached pears and ice cream are the perfect juxtaposition of flavors and textures: dark, spicy pears with a bit of acid in the background, and rich, dense ice cream rounding out the flavors. Even the sensation of warm and cold is a nice touch to the end of a great meal.

Don't blame me if your friends keep showing up at the door right before dessert.




Red Wine-Poached Pears

- 2 cups red wine
- 2 cups water
- ¼ cup sugar
- One stick of cinnamon
- Juice of half a lemon and its zest
- Pinch of salt
- 1 Asian pear, peeled, halved and cored

Poached pears and ice cream are the perfect juxtaposition of flavors and textures: dark, spicy pears with a bit of acid in the background, and rich dense ice cream rounding out the flavors.

Instructions

Combine everything except for the pear in a small sauce pan. Bring to a simmer over low heat. Add the pear and let it poach for 15 to 20 minutes. Check occasionally with the tip of a paring knife for doneness. When the pear reaches the desired texture, remove from the sauce pan and let it cool for one to one-and-a-half-minutes. Serve with a good ice cream or fresh cheese. 



About the author: Read Urban, a Virginia native, spent years cooking in the United States before coming to Korea. He enjoys experimenting with Korean ingredients, eating at innovative restaurants in Seoul and creating favorites from home.



By Paloma Julian / Photo by Brenda Gottsabend

Find this and other recipes at www.groovekorea.com

When cooking eggs, once just isn't good enough

> Just when I start thinking food can't surprise me anymore, voilà! The simplest dish takes me to heaven and I wonder why I didn't think of it first.

Last summer, my mother-in-law invited us over for lunch. She has been cooking for her family her whole life. It's no surprise she's tired of it. We all love when she cooks — what's boring to her is the food of the gods to us. But I understand that after all these years she's getting more interested in easier, less time-consuming meals.

One of those meals is that heavenly surprise I referred to in the first paragraph. We visited her on an afternoon not long ago and she said to me, "Paloma, today we will eat eggs cooked three times." I thought she was joking; I

only knew how to cook eggs one time, be they scrambled, fried or boiled. I could see in her eyes that she was going to enjoy teaching me this.

Without saying anything else, she took seven simple ingredients (which you probably already have in your fridge) and made a luxurious dish. That day I decided to share her recipe with the readers of this column, not just because I loved it, but because she deserves a little recognition after all these years of cooking.

For the ingredients, we will need a couple of eggs per person. Leftovers keep well, so if they don't all get eaten it's no problem.

| "That day I decided
| to share her recipe
| with the readers of
| this column, not just
| because I loved it, but
| because she deserves
| a little recognition
| after all these years of
| cooking."



Conchita's Triple-Cooked Eggs / Serves 4

- 9 eggs
- Flour
- Salt
- Milk
- Nutmeg
- Cheese
- Oil

Cook them once

Boil eight of the nine eggs until they are hard (about 10 minutes after the water starts boiling). Let them cool down and then peel them. Cut them in half, being careful you don't lose the yolk. In a different bowl, beat the uncooked egg. Coat the cooked eggs with it. Then dust the eggs in flour.

Cook them twice

Heat a quarter inch of oil in a skillet until the oil ripples, and then fry the flour-coated eggs. When they start to brown, put them on a plate with newspaper or paper towels, letting the paper absorb the extra oil.

Now you need to make a béchamel sauce. I explained how to do this in a previous column, but here's a quick reminder: In a cooking pan, add some oil

— enough to cover the bottom of it. When the oil is hot, add two tablespoons of flour. Stirring occasionally, cook until the mixture turns golden brown. At this point, start adding milk and tossing the mix with a spoon nonstop. You will see it start to thicken; stop when it has the texture of a sauce. I don't like it too thick, but it is up to you.

Cook them 3 times

Once the béchamel is done, add pinches of salt and nutmeg and put the eggs into the pan with the béchamel. Cook them in the béchamel for two more minutes. Now they're ready to eat! 🍴



About the author: Paloma Julian is Spanish to the core, although she hasn't lived there in years. A woman of many talents, she enjoys bringing the nuances of Spanish food culture to Seoul's English-speaking community.



Comfort with a side of gravy

By Lisa Pollack

> It was the perfect reservoir for a perfectly reasonable quantity of gravy. My discovery of the so-called gravy “nest,” a deep impression in a mound of mashed potatoes, was a game changer. The fate of my arteries was sealed.

Something about the combination of meat, potatoes and gravy strikes all the right notes, harmonizing in such a way that makes all our carnal woes suddenly drift away. True comfort you can take between your teeth and let dribble down your chin.

As the days turn colder, we enter the most difficult time to be away. Our need for subtle reminders of home takes hold beneath layers of woven knits. As an expat, the easiest means to this end is to send for Grandma’s stock of recipes. Our kitchens are the portal for nostalgia.

When it comes to roast dinners, we typically rely on our ovens to help the meat sweat it out. Unfortunately for

many of us, however, dry heat is a luxury we’re not afforded in our Korean kitchens. Working with only stove-top burners, the options are limited — particularly in regards to holiday meals. When throwing a tantrum and stomping our feet still doesn’t get us Mom’s roast turkey, I present you with a solution. One that oozes stove appeal.

To be satisfied, first we have to embrace some differences. The king of poultry isn’t exactly readily available. We must make do with its dwarfish cousin.

Using a basic braising technique, it’s possible to tenderize meat with a healthy dose of gravy. The secret to developing the flavor is to allow ample time for the onions and pears to caramelize. A golden glow won’t suffice; you want to wait it out for that rich mahogany. In the end, your patience will be rewarded with a one-way ticket to your “happy place.”

The secret to developing the flavor is to allow ample time for the onions and pears to caramelize. A golden glow won’t suffice; you want to wait it out for that rich mahogany.

Braised Chicken with Pear and Onion Gravy

- 2 heaping tablespoons of flour
- 1 whole chicken, in pieces
- Salt and pepper
- 1 medium paper or plastic bag
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil

- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1/8 of an Asian pear (The yellow apple-on-steroids-looking things), diced
- 2 tablespoons of butter

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes, dissolved in 600 milliliters of water
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 heaping tablespoon of flour plus

- 150 milliliters of water, combined to make a slurry
- Mashed potatoes, to serve

Instructions

Toss flour, chicken, salt and pepper in the bag until evenly coated. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large, deep pan (I used a wok – whatever’s clever) over medium-high heat. Add chicken to the pan, being careful not to crowd. Allow chicken pieces to cook, undisturbed, for three to five minutes or until evenly browned. Flip and repeat, then remove from the pan and set aside.

Melt the butter in the hot pan along with the chicken drippings. Add the onions and pear, and sauté for about a minute to soften at medium-high heat. Lower the heat to medium-low. Continue to cook until the mixture takes on a deep brown color, 20 to 25 minutes.

When the onion mixture is just about finished, turn the heat up and

toss in the garlic to soften. Add the dissolved chicken bouillon and gradually bring to a boil while stirring frequently to loosen any browned bits from the bottom of the pan.

Add the browned chicken and bay leaf back to the pan. Again, allow to come to a rapid simmer, then cover and reduce the heat to low. Cook, covered, for about 40 minutes.

When finished, remove the chicken from the pan, reserving the liquids. Adjust the stove heat to medium. While the drippings come to a simmer, whisk in the slurry mixture, bit by bit. Continue simmering and adding slurry until the gravy has thickened to the desired consistency.

Serve chicken with gravy over mashed potatoes.

Info

For more ideas of ways to satisfy your foreign cravings in Korea, check out the author’s blog at www.thaicurryinkorea.wordpress.com

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STYLE: Wheat ale.

COLOUR: Golden yellow.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Three types of pale and wheat malts.

CHARACTER: Light on the palate, yet packed with flavour and European hop aroma, with fruity or citrusy notes.



STYLE: Brown ale.

COLOUR: Deep copper with garnet flashes.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Three varieties of hops, and a blend of caramel, pale and black malts.

CHARACTER: Fills your mouth with a fusion of toast malt and sweet caramel up front finishing with a nutty flavour, medium creamy carbonation.



STYLE: Stout.

COLOUR: Black with deep amber hue.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Pale malt with healthy doses of caramel and black malts along with two hops.

CHARACTER: Black malt aroma and flavour with notes of coffee and chocolate and ample hop.



STYLE: Light lime lager.

COLOUR: Soft gold.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Pure malted barley, hops, water and lime.

CHARACTER: Light body with slight lime aroma and flavour.



STYLE: Brown ale.

COLOUR: Warm reddish light brown.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Blend of pale, caramel and black malts and a blend of three hop varieties.

CHARACTER: Malty with a hint of toffee balanced with very evident hop and followed by a clean finish.



STYLE: Dark Lager.

COLOUR: Amber with white, billowy head.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Blend of pale and caramel malts, as well as honey from Three Hills, and two varieties of hops.

CHARACTER: Sweet and honey/molasses flavour, slightly hopped with fuller mouth feel.



STYLE: India Pale Ale.

COLOUR: Golden amber.

KEY INGREDIENTS: British-style hops known as Fuggles. Seriously.

CHARACTER: A classic ale dry hopped to lend a distinctive character. Spicy, warm, earthy.



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Artist's
JourneyNew
Column

Groove Korea is teaming up with Artist's Journey to bring you insight into Korea's art community every month.



#1

Rainbow

My mind, cannot be seen to anyone.
Like a rainbow only seen after the rain.
I show my mind to who really loves me,
Who could cry for me,
Like rain before the rainbow.

The Artist's Journey

Interview with Cho Sun-young, inner portrait artist

Interview by Wilfred Lee / Artwork by Cho Sun-young

> Over the past four years, artist Cho Sun-young has painted more than 2,000 portraits for people around the globe. These aren't your average portraits, however; Cho is an inner portrait artist. Through each piece she focuses not on capturing

the outward appearance of her subject, but on revealing something of their inner nature. The Artist's Journey's Wilfred Lee recently sat down with Cho to talk about her process and how she came to develop her unique vision of portraiture.

Groove Korea: Can you explain to people how you do inner portraits?

Cho Sun-young: Someone gives me one word that describes them best, and then I ask them why they picked this word, or we have a conversation using that word. I express it through a condensed drawing, and also in the poetry behind the drawing.

#2

Dependables

As time goes by,
Everything changes but
You are always my dependable friend
Who makes me stand still.





How did you start doing inner portraits?

After my first book ("Big Holes in My Heart, Bigger than the Body," 2009) I needed to draw and write more, but I didn't want to be stuck in my room alone just doing my job. I wanted to communicate with people, so I thought, how can I communicate with people and also create something?

Every time you talk to somebody, you always create a completely different picture of them. How are you able to do that? Do you talk to the person and immediately get an idea?

I don't know how I do it. A simple drawing is easier for me, and short poetry is easier for me. I don't know how it comes, but I think it's like translation into the drawing and also into the poetry, because I ask them why they picked that word and then I hear their story. Then I translate it into the drawing and poetry. I think, really, I'm not doing that much. My job is translating. Most of the thing is in the people who came.

Would you say inner portraits are a therapeutic process for the people who receive them? You seem to get to know them while having this conversation with them, so the connection with the person is much deeper than it would be through just doing a regular portrait.

Yeah, I really want to concentrate on them and have a deep talk with them. People in Seoul are really, really busy, so they don't have any time to think about themselves. They don't have time to think about what they like. So, while you think about yourself and pick one word that describes you the best, you have time to think about yourself. (When a person takes the portrait) home, they can keep on thinking about themselves.

#3

Responsibility

Sometimes,
I wish I could cut
all my responsibility
and could be.

#4

Zombie

I'm passionate about what I like
Like a zombie chasing his food.

"I think, really, I'm not doing that much. My job is translating. Most of the thing is in the people who came."

—Cho Sun-young

#5

Happiness

Happiness is,
Walking really really slowly
Watching everything vividly
Sometimes standing still,
relaxed.



You've met people from all over, all different ages. Was there any special experience you had while drawing someone?

I think I learn from them. I wrote about the inner portrait of a boy who said he was like a rainbow. He was 8 years old. At that age, boys and girls usually pick a word because they like it, just for a simple reason. But when I asked him if he picked the word because it's pretty, he answered, "No, the rainbow is only seen after the rain, and I show my mind to the people who I really like." I was really surprised because he was only 8 years old.

Where do you see inner portraits going next?

At first, I just wanted to communicate with many people, but as I'm doing this, I feel like I'm giving people time to think about themselves. I think that's the big picture, that people are getting happier and are getting to know about themselves. If inner portraits could influence people like that, I think that's it.

Info

To learn more about Cho Sun-young and her inner portraits, visit her websites: www.chosunyoung.com and www.iportrait.com.

The Artist's Journey's Wilfred Lee and Alison Hjelseth bring you daily doses of inspiration, including weekly podcasts featuring artists from around the globe. Learn more: www.facebook.com/myartistsjourney and www.artistsjourney.org.

At the box office

The big screen

By Dean Crawford

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Directed by **Peter Jackson**



Dec.
13 Adventure / Fantasy
160 minutes

> I wouldn't consider myself a "Lord of the Rings" fan boy, but I was definitely blown away by "The Fellowship of the Ring." As cheesy as it sounds, it was a real spectacle and reminded me of the magic of cinema. However, that was where the magic of Mordor ended, because as excited as I was for "The Two Towers," I wasn't as blown away and found it to be much of the same. By the third film, "The Return of the King," I was so bored I couldn't wait for it to finish.

I know, however, that there are many who didn't want the journey to end, so for them there is good news: After numerous problems – including a change in director, script issues and industrial disputes – Bilbo Baggins and co. are returning for more adventures in "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," once again directed by Oscar-winner Peter Jackson.

Originally, the film was going to be split into two parts, which would have given us a better idea of where the break in the story would come. But earlier this year, Jackson announced that he was going to turn the book into a trilogy of films rather than two as originally planned.

That's great if you're a fan of the movies, but not good if you're trying to preview it for fear of getting the premise wrong. The synopsis on the film's website simply reads: "The adventure follows the journey of title character Bilbo

P R E V I E W

Baggins, who is swept into an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome dragon Smaug."

Acting as a prequel to "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, several of the main characters are returning, including Ian McKellen as Gandalf, Orlando Bloom as Legolas, Elijah Wood as Frodo and, most importantly, Andy Serkis as Gollum.

New recruits to the cast are Martin Freeman from "The Office" as a young Bilbo Baggins and Sherlock Holmes himself, Benedict Cumberbatch, as the voice of Smaug.

Now, I know this will be a controversial statement, but I'm not excited for this next set of films at all. At least when Guillermo del Toro was attached, we would have seen a different vision of J. R. R. Tolkien's world. But with Peter Jackson returning, surely it's going to be more of the same.

Seeing as the last "The Lord of the Rings" film won Oscars for best film and best director and made a ton of money, there are obviously millions of people who cannot wait for "The Hobbit."

I fear we may have seen it all before, yet I'll still be there on opening day, so let's hope I am proven wrong.

Les Misérables

Directed by **Tom Hooper**



Dec.
20 Drama/Musical
152 minutes

> Hopefully, if you're reading this, it means you weren't one of the (surprisingly) many people who thought "I Dreamed a Dream" was a Simon Cowell production sung by Susan Boyle, and you will be excited to hear that "Les Misérables" is coming to the big screen for the second time. The film, adapted from the 1862 French novel of the same name by Victor Hugo, is an ensemble piece with many strands to its narrative. The main focus, however, is Jean Valjean, a criminal who has broken parole after his release from a 19-year prison sentence for stealing bread. His parole officer, Inspector Javert, is relentless in bringing him to justice, which results in a chase lasting two decades and culminating in the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris.

While only hardcore fans may be familiar with the original 1998 "Les Misérables" film, most people with a passing knowledge of pop culture will be more familiar with the massively successful stage adaptation. Film adaptations of stage musicals have had mixed success, to say the least, with "Chicago" winning an Oscar for best film while "Nine" and "Rock of Ages" fared considerably less well. So, how will this one turn out? Based on the trailers I have seen so far, it actually looks really, really good.

The talent both in front of and behind the camera is stacked, with Tom Hooper, the Oscar-winning director of "The King's Speech" taking the helm, and Hollywood heav-

P R E V I E W

yweights Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe taking on the roles of Jean Valjean and Inspector Javert, respectively. Not to mention Anne Hathaway as Fantine, Samantha Barks as Éponine (who incidentally played the same role in the West End production for a year starting in 2010), Sacha Baron Cohen as Thénardier and Helena Bonham Carter, who will no doubt be pulling her stock cockney accent out of the bag to play Madame Thénardier.

One thing worth noting is that Hooper claims that this was the first time actors in a musical film have sung live on set while the cameras were rolling, as opposed to the general practice of recording the songs beforehand and replaying them on set during filming. The cast had earpieces that allowed them to hear a piano, which they could slow down or speed up as they saw fit. All of which should help the performance of the actors, as there is nothing worse than watching terrible miming in a musical. Well, watching Russell Brand trying to act and sing in "Rock of Ages" was much worse, but you get my point.

"Les Misérables" is released on the 20th of December, and if the trailer is anything to go by, you'd better take a couple of tissues in with you. You know, in case you get a little bit of dust in your eye. Or if it starts raining...on your face. ☹

Korean DVD corner

The small screen

By Dean Crawford

White The Melody of the Curse

Directed by Kim Gok, Kim Sun



Rated
15 Horror
106 minutes

R E V I E W

> With one particular Korean musician seemingly taking over the world, I thought this an opportune moment to ride the K-pop wave and see if there were any films with K-pop at their core. Kim Yong-hwa's 2006 comedy "200 Pounds Beauty" seemed to be the most popular, but I fancied something a little darker: Enter "White: The Melody of the Curse," which stars real-life K-pop star Ham Eun-jeong from T-ara.

Ham plays Eun-joo, leader of the manufactured girl group the Pink Dolls.

They have difficulty trying to succeed in Korea's tough music industry, constantly losing out in showcases to rival bands. In an attempt to change their ailing fortunes, the Pink Dolls move into a new, luxurious studio that they got for a cheap price due to a fire that killed members of a girl group years earlier. After recording a cover version of the song "White" by an anonymous girl band, their popularity starts to rise.

As you can probably guess, this success comes at a price, as the former writer of the song is returning from beyond the grave to kill all those who dare step into the lead vocalist role. An overdose, bad facial products, killer cameras and crazed fans are being chalked up to the perils of the industry by the Pink Dolls' management company, but Eun-joo is the only one who is aware of the

threat and sees these strange new incidents for what they really are.

Putting K-pop fever to one side, "White" is a huge disappointment. It borrows from so many other movies that it never really becomes its own film. It's like a bad cross between "The Ring" and "Final Destination" with "The Exorcist" thrown in for good measure. Sure, there might be a couple of decent scares, but you never really understand what the film is trying to say or what it wants to be. It's not a very effective horror film, nor is it a good docudrama of the seedy world of the music industry. Add that to the fact that the tension at the end of the film revolves around a character that is yet to be introduced. So not only do you have no idea who the killer is, but you also don't care.

If you want to watch a horror film warning you away from the music industry — you know, in case you end up doing drugs, hating your band members, getting killed by your fans or sleeping with your sponsor — this is the film for you. However, if you want to watch a scary horror film, I'd give "White" a miss and try something else.

The Cat

Directed by Byeon Seung-wook



Rated
15 Horror
106 minutes

R E V I E W

> After recently watching a horror film where the cause of terror is a K-pop song, I searched for another horror film with an equally ridiculous premise and thought I might have found one in "The Cat." From the name alone, I had visions of a god-awful giant feline puppet devouring its prey on the streets of Seoul.

Park Min-young plays So-yeon, a groomer at a pet store in Seoul. Although So-yeon seems perfectly normal, she went through a traumatic experience as a child that has left her with a crippling fear of small spaces and occasional bouts of anxiety. Her most recent job is to groom a cat named Bidanyi, but Bidanyi's owner is found dead in an elevator the very next day.

So-yeon takes the cat until a home can be found for it, but as soon as Bidanyi moves in, So-yeon starts seeing ghostly apparitions of a young girl with cat-like eyes. From then on, people continue to die mysteriously in small, enclosed spaces. Is it because of the young ghostly figure So-yeon keeps seeing? And is it more than just a coincidence that all the people dying have some relation to So-yeon? With the help of police officer Jun-seok, she attempts to investigate this mystery before they are the next to die.

As you might expect, my initial hope of what the film would be like was a million miles from the truth. Instead

of a low-budget monster movie, "The Cat" is another on the list of generic, paint by numbers Korean horror films. All the elements are there: the vengeful female with unfinished business, the lone woman who is seeing visions that no one believes in until it's too late and a plotline that conveniently wraps itself up at the end.

In fairness, "The Cat" attempts to be a little different by bringing in a psychological element through So-yeon's claustrophobia, rather than focusing solely on mood to provide the scares. While So-yeon's doctors try to imply her visions are nothing more than paranoia, the viewer is also forced to decide whether the apparitions are all in So-yeon's head. Sadly, the film, which is laden with plot holes and subplots that are never fully resolved, is still one that fans of the horror genre would have undoubtedly seen 10 times before.

However, despite its lack of originality, "The Cat" does offer a few scares and jumps, so if you are really stuck for something to watch, you could do a lot worse than this.



Seoul's favorite Christmas tradition is back

Take the magic out of Christmas with 'SantaLand Diaries'

Story by Anna Sebel / Photo by Michele Farley

Info

"SantaLand Diaries" plays for one weekend only, beginning Dec. 21.

Tickets

All tickets are 15,000 won. For bookings and more information, go to www.probatorytheatre.com.

➤ For the second year in a row, Probationary Theatre will stage the production "SantaLand Diaries" by David Sedaris.

The comedy takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes tour of Santaland in Macy's department store. Told through the eyes of a disgruntled employee working as Crumpet the Elf, this one-man show takes the magic out of the holiday and injects it with a heavy dose of hilarious reality.

Based on a real-life stint working as an elf for Macy's in New York, the show successfully weaves Sedaris' wry observations on the absurdity and mayhem of the silly season into a highly entertaining 60 minutes of theater.

Sedaris is the New York Times best-selling author of "Me Talk Pretty One Day," "Barrel Fever" and "When You Are Engulfed in Flames." However, Sedaris' launching point began back in 1992, when he was asked to read an excerpt from his diary on the radio. The piece detailed his exploits while working at Macy's over the festive season.

These scribbled thoughts became known as "SantaLand Diaries" and Sedaris became an overnight sensation, with numerous book deals, radio shows, recording contracts and TV appearances to follow.

"SantaLand Diaries" was eventually adapted to

Told through the eyes of a disgruntled employee working as Crumpet the elf, this one-man show takes the magic out of Christmas and injects it with a heavy dose of hilarious reality.

the stage, and made its Korean debut in 2011 at White Box Theatre, where it proved so popular that two extra performances were announced.

"It was amazing," director Desiree Munro recalls. "Even with Korean subtitles, the majority of our audience members were expats, most of whom I assumed would be in Thailand — or somewhere warm — over Christmas. I thought it would be difficult to get an audience, but the difficulty ended up being how to accommodate everyone! We sold out in record time."

Of the 14 mainstage productions White Box Theatre has produced, "SantaLand" will be the first to receive a revival.

"We really strive to give our audiences an eclectic mix of shows," said White Box co-owner, Liam

Mitchinson. "We've done shows from Australia, France, the U.K., Ireland, Norway and the U.S. We do comedy, romance, absurdity, drama, classics and contemporary. The last thing we want is for people to think we just do the same thing year after year.

"It's not creative, and it's not what we set out to provide our patrons with. There are lots of great scripts with Christmas themes, but we felt that spending Christmas abroad makes even the most hardened expats a bit sentimental and in need of some familiarity."

Munro explains: "We all crave the rituals and traditions that come from Christmas. It's understandable and it's comforting. We had such an overwhelmingly warm response to the show last time, we really wanted to give our fantastic audiences the chance to make the show a part of their Christmas tradition."

"SantaLand Diaries" is accessible to all ages, and can be enjoyed by Koreans and English speakers alike with the help of Korean subtitles by Judy Kim.

"A lot of Sedaris' humor comes from the specific words he chooses.

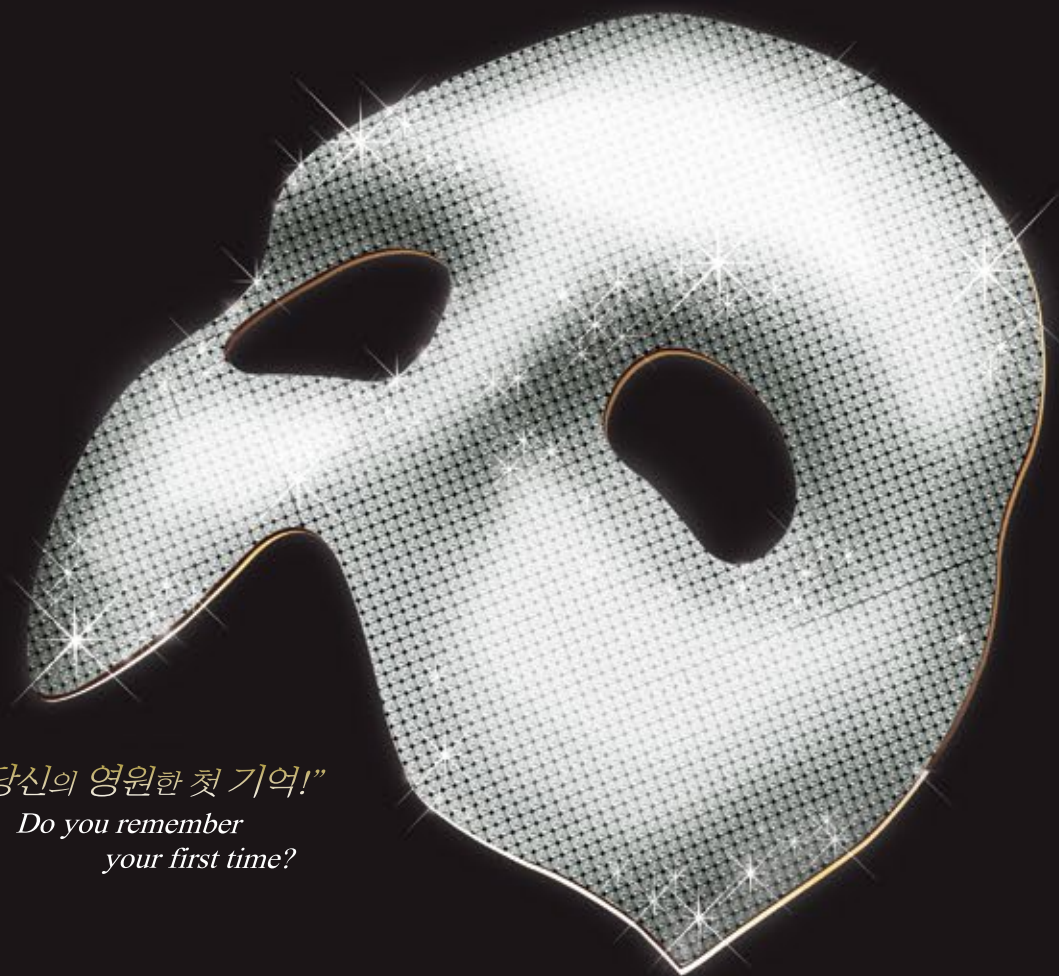
"I didn't expect to find Korean audiences laughing as much as they did. I think it certainly helps to have a translator with a devilishly good sense of humor," Mitchinson noted. 🎅



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PSCORE holds a human rights awareness campaign at Yonsei University on Sept. 27. Students and passersby study information provided about human rights in North Korea.

Helping North Koreans through song

PSCORE charity concert at club Freebird

Story by George Kim / Photo by Bada Nam

On Dec. 15 the non-governmental organization PSCORE, or People for Successful COrean Reunification, will hold a charity concert at Club Freebird in Hongdae.

Proceeds from the 15,000 won cover will be used to fund many of the group's projects for the upcoming year, including their tutoring program and awareness campaigns.

The concert will feature some of Korea's best indie bands — The Studs Lonigan Experience, The Essence, The Wasted Johnnys, Samba Mamba and Love X Stereo.

PSCORE is a non-profit, non-religious, non-partisan NGO based in Seoul. Its aim is to provide a platform to discuss topics such as democratization, human rights and social issues. The group also hopes to bridge the gap between South Korea, North Korea and the international community.

"We provide a very valuable service for many of the North Korean refugees," said Ian Hamilton, a volunteer with PSCORE since September. "Our volunteer education programs give them the opportunity to learn English from a private tutor or through classes that they would not normally be able to afford. Our programs help them become more competitive in South Korean society."

PSCORE's cultural activities, camps and events provide opportunities for cultural exchange between North Koreans and expats, facilitating easier integration for many of the refugees. "Our campaigns have successfully raised the profile on the human rights abuses committed by the North Korean government; our Geneva campaign this past September yielded consultative status by the UN for our organization," added Hamilton. "We are the only NGO with UN consultative status exclusively dealing with North Korean human rights."

Hamilton said it was his grandfather — a lieutenant for the U.S. Army during the Korean War — who initially got him interested in North Korea issues. "After I came to Korea, I've noticed that a lot of people were kind of apathetic to North Korea issues and human rights. So after studying Korean at Sogang, I wanted to find an organization where I could use my Korean and English skills, so I started volunteering with PSCORE."

PSCORE's beginnings trace back to October 2006 when a group of North Korean defectors, and South Korean and international students decided to gather and discuss ways to help the North Korean people. It was founded by Kim Young-il, himself a North Korean defector.

PSCORE's education program primarily consists of one-on-one tutoring and a Wednesday night class in Seodaemun, central Seoul. Some volunteer teachers are paired with defectors and others teach the Wednesday night classes.

Hamilton said the group welcomes volunteers with open arms. "Not only do we have professional expat teachers, but also we have Chinese students, European exchange students, Korean-Americans and South Koreans matched up with North Korean defectors," he said. 🇰🇷

Get involved

See the website www.pscore.org for more information. There are links on the website for internship and teaching applications.

Club Freebird

To get there, leave Hongdae Station, Exit 6, and walk down the street towards the Buy The Way. Turn left into the alley and hang a right at the smaller alley with Catchlight/Cafe Libro. Freebird is at the end of the alley.

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Funding pathways to freedom for North Korean defectors

Justice for North Korea hosts holiday benefit to raise money and awareness

.....

Story by Brandon Hansen
Photos courtesy Justice for North Korea

The struggles of the North Korean defectors and stateless children are not a South Korean problem, but the world's problem." — Peter Jung

> Peter Jung was working as a missionary in China in 1998 when he first witnessed waves of North Korean defectors being repatriated back to the country they had risked their lives escaping. Appalled, he found he could no longer stand the injustice and decided to do something to help. Regardless of the consequences, he quietly began helping the refugees to freedom.

On weekends and holidays he would travel to the Chinese-North Korean border, and it was there that he started meeting defectors, mostly women and children. After some time, he was invited to one of the secret shelters housing defectors hiding from Chinese authorities. During his visits,

he would tutor the defectors in language, computer skills and the Bible.

Jung eventually decided to take it a step further and sneak the defectors into the South Korean consulate in Beijing, specifically women who were pregnant and people who were sick. This was in 2003 during the SARS outbreak, and he decided he needed to get them out of China as soon as possible.

It was during one of his attempts to sneak the defectors into the consulate when he was arrested and put in jail in China for more than a year. His captors forced him to undergo sleep deprivation and other forms of torture.

But his fight was far from finished. He



"It is your support and ideas that will pave the path to a better life for the defectors. Your support will finally stop the appalling treatment and countless human rights abuses toward the North Korean refugees." — Peter Jung

.....

Justice for North Korea Fundraiser

Dec. 15 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Admission is 10,000 won. Raffle tickets and drinks, including 2,000 won Jell-O shots are extra.

To volunteer or learn more about JFNK, call (070) 7561-1253, email rescuenorthkorea@gmail.com, visit justice4nk.org, or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/justicefornorthkorea

returned to South Korea, where he founded Justice for North Korea to raise awareness about all he had witnessed and help ease the suffering of the North Korean refugees, who often live furtive half lives in shelters as they await the chance to escape. In the meantime, they risk being trafficked in China or detained in labor camps if caught, before being sent back to the North.

"The struggles of the North Korean defectors and stateless children are not a South Korean problem, but the world's problem," said Jung, a Korean national. "Support is needed from Koreans and foreigners alike."

Founded in 2007, the group is a non-religious, non-governmental organization that actively opposes the ongoing human rights violations committed against the North Korean refugees.

Right before the start of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the group made its presence known by holding a 444-day demonstration in front of embassies and consulates in 13 countries throughout Asia and Europe, including China, Japan and South Korea. The group's aim was to bring global attention to the Chinese government's illegal repatriation of North Korean refugees – actions that violate China's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention related to the Status of Refugees.

Today, the group works in collaboration with NGOs all over the world to accomplish its goals. It continues to focus on helping defectors, primarily children and teenagers, escape China and repatriate safely in another country. Despite the considerable danger to himself, Jung continues to travel to other countries, predominantly to East Asia along the Chinese border, to rescue defectors, and then personally takes them to embassies.

"Regardless of North or South, we are all Korean; and unification of the Korean Peninsula cannot take place until there is justice. And justice cannot happen until human rights are restored to all," he said.

Aside from Jung, the group's membership consists of expats and South Koreans working side by side.

Member Vivvi Pierce said she sought out JFNK because, "it is a small group of passionate people with an overwhelming commitment to speaking out against policies and governments, assisting North Korean defectors and spreading awareness of North Korean human rights violations."

When she was in graduate school, she studied security issues in Eastern

Europe and the Middle East, primarily Chechnya and Afghanistan.

"It was during this time that I was exposed to some horrendous human rights violations and became interested in activism," Pierce said. "After moving to Seoul, I really wanted to get involved in issues pertaining to North Korea and help spread awareness about the heinous wrongdoings happening there. I hope to take what I have learned through my volunteer experience here at JFNK and use it throughout a lifetime of activism."

Should defectors find themselves in South Korea, the group has established tutoring and mentoring programs; programs that help young people obtain the necessary skills to put them on a path to a healthy and stable future. The group also contributes to several shelters in China, one that it fully supports, that provide a safe haven for defectors and stateless children from Chinese authorities.

There is still, however, far more that can be done. The group still needs more volunteers looking to get involved with fundraising, translating, editing and advocacy. There are also opportunities for social media volunteers and street team campaigners.

The campaigners will likely be familiar to people who have visited the tourist neighbourhood of Insa-dong in central Seoul. There, they stage regular street theater demonstrations that imagine the situation a defector might face if captured, with one person playing the role of a defector, another a North Korean guard and one more a Chinese guard. Caught between the Chinese policy of forcible repatriation of defectors and the prospect of being sent to a prison camp in the North, the defector is shown in an impossible situation. After a short hiatus, the demonstrations will start again this month and there are more planned for the spring.

The group will be hosting a fundraiser and holiday party at Dillinger's Bar in Itaewon on Dec. 15. The event offers entertainment, a raffle and loads of holiday spirit, as well as a chance to get to know more about the group and its mission.

As Jung said of the event, "It is your support and ideas that will pave the path to a better life for the defectors. Your support will finally stop the appalling treatment and countless human rights abuses toward the North Korean refugees." 🙏



"I wouldn't want anyone else to have to take care of me in an emergency situation so I'm very lucky that they were there. They saved my life."

-- Lyndsie Coon

The long road to recovery

Friends and family of injured climber launch online fundraiser

Story by Jenny Na

➤ When Lyndsie Coon took to the mountain in Seonunsan Provincial Park, South Jeolla Province, on Sept. 30, it was a good day for climbing. The sun was out, the air was crisp and cool and she was with a group of good friends. Having finished her ascent, she was rappelling back down when her rope suddenly slipped out of her harness and she fell approximately 10 meters (30 feet) to the ground.

Coon never lost consciousness, but she still can't remember what happened that day.

"When I think about it it's kind of like a dream or a childhood memory, something that you're pretty sure happened to you, but it's very fuzzy; and when I first heard about it I didn't remember it at all," she said.

The first medically trained person on the scene was Will Price, who cared for Coon before the first rescue team arrived.

He had recently completed a wilderness first-aid course and was able to treat her for shock. Price wrapped a blanket around her, stopped the bleeding and laid her down.

Her friends called the response team from the mountain and they came with a stretcher but had no walkie-talkies or other equipment. It's unclear why they were so unprepared, but Coon speculates that they just weren't aware of the gravity of her situation.

Though Coon's friends tried to tell the rescue team what had happened, none of them knew enough Korean to convey the events in full and it was fast becoming apparent that the message wasn't getting across. Meanwhile, Coon was losing a lot of blood from a fracture in her elbow and it was clear they were going to need to get her out of there. Her friends moved quickly to call for a helicopter and got her ready for transport, strapping her to the stretcher and then carrying her up an unpaved road to a part of the mountain where they thought the helicopter would be able to land.

Coon credits her friends with their leadership and quick thinking that day.

"I wouldn't want anyone else to have to take care of me in an emergency situation so I'm very lucky that they were there," she said. "They saved my life."

She and her friend Daniel Gurule were transported to Wonkwang University Hospital in nearby Iksan, where Coon was found to have sustained several major fractures in her pelvis, left femur and elbow. Fortunately, her left side took most of the impact, meaning that her head and spine were out of danger.

"In a sense I was really lucky because it could have been a lot worse," she said. "I could have had a broken back, I could be paralyzed, I could have broken my head open, I could be dead. So in a way, I landed in a way that the injuries aren't terrible."

There was, however, an early indication of just how serious her injuries were.

"When they strapped me to the board, my friend Carly said I kept complaining that I was sitting on something and they were looking under me and saying, 'Lyndsie there's nothing there,' and I was like, 'Yes, I think there's a stick or something,'" Lyndsie said. "They figured out later I was just sitting on broken bones. So it's good that I don't remember it. It's interesting how our minds will protect us from something that traumatic."

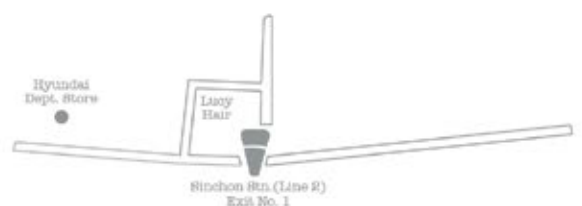


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Risk and reward

What caused the rope to fail is uncertain, but Price wrote in an accident report, posted online at Korea on the Rocks, that the consensus from those present was that the knot used to connect the rope to her harness was tied improperly and hadn't been checked by either Coon or her belayer.

Before the accident, Coon was an avid climber. She got her start in 2011 and didn't stop, going out on weekends and traveling to Thailand later that year for a month of climbing. "It was a combination of being outdoors and being completely absorbed in the present moment, of the complete mind-body connection. Being on the rock, in nature, on a mountain with friends you love, it's just a feeling that I've never had before and it's pretty easy to get addicted to that."

Though she still doesn't know how long it will be before she is able to walk, she didn't hesitate a bit when asked whether she thought she'd go back to climbing one day. "Oh, I do, yeah. I really do," she said. "I think that it would be sad if I didn't in a way because you know, anyone can have an accident doing anything they love, and if you give up on that then it's a way of admitting defeat. I think it's also a way of letting your fears overcome you and that's something I don't want."

She's carried that spirit through to her recovery, but for such an active person, it's the waiting that's the most difficult.

"I definitely have my days where I feel like progress is too slow. Patience has never been my strong point, but this accident has forced it on me," she said. "I've been told that I'm being really patient about the whole thing but I don't have a choice. You know, I'm here. I'm giving myself as much time as I need but I'm also working really hard in physical therapy."

Long road to recovery

Lyndsie is now at Soon Chun Hyang University Hospital in Seoul, where she is exceeding her doctor's expectations in terms of regaining her mobility.

After a month on her back, she was strong enough to sit in a wheelchair, which is important because in order to get back to the States she'll have to have enough strength and mobility in her leg and hips to allow her to sit up for the duration of the long flight back home to Kansas City, where she will have months more physical therapy ahead of her.

Her mom, Linda, had rushed to Korea four days after the accident to be with her daughter and was planning to stay until she could accompany her back home. She was the one who proposed getting Lyndsie into a reclining wheelchair to facilitate her recovery and even went out to the medical supply store across from the hospital to get one. When she saw her daughter sitting up for the first time, she started crying.

"Then I started crying and I'm like, oh my God, does this mean we're going to go home soon?" Lyndsie said. "It was pretty momentous."

Since then, Lyndsie and her mom have been exploring the neighborhood, going outside for fresh air and sunshine, and occasionally for ice cream at a shop nearby.

But she still has a long road ahead. She had another surgery in mid-November, and she still has limited use of her arms and hands. Her right hand was in a cast and was likely to be for another five weeks. She said she could sort of hold a fork, but couldn't yet hold a cup.

"Bugger," she said. "It's hard."

"Climbing is about challenging yourself and then realizing what you're capable of when at first you look at it thinking you can't, kind of like the fall. If I say I can't rock climb again then that goes against what I've learned from rock climbing."

-- Lyndsie Coon

Cost of healing

Because Coon had just returned to Korea after a summer back home in the States, her national health insurance plan had not yet been reactivated at the time of the accident and she now faces growing medical expenses.

Her friend Carly Johnson has put together an online fundraiser to support Coon's recovery and she is hoping to raise \$10,000 for her friend, which will ultimately represent a fraction of the total health care costs.

The fundraiser, at gofundme.com, had raised close to \$3,000 in its first 26 days. Coon's mom left this message on the fundraiser page: "I just want to say how deeply touched the Coon family is by the love, support and generosity shown to Lyndsie by all our family and friends and Lyndsie's Korean and expat climbing community of friends (who we now consider family). I am quite certain she would not be with us today were it not for all of you. No doubt, this 'climb' to complete recovery will be her most challenging. She has the determination and fortitude needed. I'm calling her a warrior – no small coincidence (as) her favorite yoga pose is The Warrior."

Echoing her mom, Coon says that she doesn't know if she would have been able to survive without the love and support of the friends who were there with her that day and the friends and family who continue to support her through her recovery.

"It felt like their being with me and their support was almost like medicine," she said. "I really never expected such an outpouring of love and support from my friends and family and I'm just so grateful to know that people really are pulling for me. It means so much to me." 🙏

Donate

To read more about Coon's story or donate to her recovery, go to www.donationsforlyndsie.com or visit gofundme.com and search for "Lyndsie." Donations can also be sent through Coon's Korean account: **KB Bank No. 567001-04-261293.**

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Challenge accepted

**Daegu International School
fosters atmosphere of creativity, critical thinking**

Story by Groove Korea staff / Photos courtesy DIS

Number of foreign students: 91
Number of Korean students: 173
Tuition per semester: 10 million won (kinder) to 12.5 million won (high school)
Ancillary fees: 200,000 won (registration), 1.7 million won (one-time capital construction cost)
Additional fees: Lunch, residence hall, bus (all optional)
Application deadline: Rolling admission

“Because we are new and have not encumbered our school culture’s baggage of ‘that’s the way we do things,’ students and faculty are able to seize new ideas and follow those ideas to fruition. We have a unique mix of very talented educators who were all extremely successful and decorated before they got to DIS.”

— Mark Grice,
headmaster of Daegu International School

International Students

TOTAL	AR.	AU.	BR.	CA.	CN.	DE.	GB.
91	1	4	2	4	4	2	1
HK.	IN.	JP.	NP.	NZ.	PK.	TW.	USA
1	1	8	2	6	3	3	51

Mark Grice Headmaster Daegu International School

We have built an excellent international school in Daegu. We have the highest percentage of U.S. National Board-certified teachers of all international schools worldwide. Over 70 percent of our teachers have advanced degrees. However, our greatest strength is that we combine these great teachers with great students to make a truly exceptional and exciting school. The new mantra is “thinking outside of the box.” At Daegu International School we not only think out-

side of the box, but we give our students the support and opportunity to think outside of the box. The next generation of iPod designers, business leaders, bridge engineers, etc. are being developed now and DIS is working hard to give our students the tools take advantage of these opportunities. We have small class sizes, abundant technology – smartboards to computers to iPads to robots, and world-class instruction dedicated to innovation and excellence. If a student succeeds at DIS they

➤ Last summer, a 10th grade student contacted Mark Grice, headmaster of Daegu International School, with the idea of starting a TV broadcasting program. With only guidance and technical support, the student was able to see her vision to fruition. She conducted her own interviews and auditions for engineers, broadcasters and writers, and started broadcasting in September using the school’s new on-campus TV studio, smartboards in every classroom and high-definition video cameras.

“Our school’s TV broadcasting program is now an integral part of our school,” Grice stated.

The broadcasting program is a snapshot of the potential that the school says it unlocks in its students.

Grice explained that Daegu International School fosters an atmosphere of opportunity. “Because we are new and have not encumbered our school culture’s baggage of ‘that’s the way we do things,’ students and faculty are able to seize new ideas and follow those ideas to fruition,” he said. “We have a unique mix of very talented educators who were all extremely successful and decorated before they got to DIS.”

Daegu International School is a joint venture between Daegu and Lee Academy in the United States. It offers an American education based on Maine Learning Results and the Advanced Placement System of the College Board. It will add a year of high school each year until 2013-2014 to reach a full 12-year educational cycle. The school’s stated goal is to prepare its students academically, socially and emotionally for post-secondary education.

The role Daegu International School plays in the Korean and foreign communities goes beyond volunteer work: It involves preparing its students to live and thrive in a global environment, and in doing so that also makes Daegu a more appealing place for foreign companies to do business.

“We provide an international education with an American curriculum,” he said. “For the international community, we provide an education that makes Daegu and Korea an attractive location. Korean students get the opportunity to speak, write and read English in an environment that emphasizes creativity, critical thinking and excellence in a global environment. For all of our students we provide an environment that is based on respect: respect for each other, respect for themselves, and respect for the environment.”

According to DIS’ mission statement, the school endeavors to foster individual excellence and personal growth through the acquisition of knowledge. It strives to nurture its students with creativity, frontier spirit and global leadership in making a contribution to the world.

DIS is fully licensed by Korea’s Ministry of Education, Technology and Science and is recognized by the state of Maine’s Department of Education.

The school celebrates its students’ individual strengths and its mosaic of cultures, but that diversity in itself enhances the learning experience. “By emphasizing how each part of us can contribute to make the whole better, we move away from having our differences divide us and into appreciating and utilizing the best of each of us,” Grice said. “We know the research demonstrates that diversity enhances the growth of everyone’s critical thinking skills.”

Teachers and administrators at DIS utilize the school’s diversity to create mixes of students and ideas that will allow its students to challenge each other.

When students graduate from Daegu International School, they will bring with them the ability to work with people from many different backgrounds and cultures, said Grice: “to think critically and creatively to solve problems; to learn that mistakes are okay and how to self-correct; to learn what they need to do in order to excel in any situation.”

will succeed at the university level and beyond. The English-language environment filled with students from 16 different countries prepares our students for whatever university they choose upon graduation.

Additionally we work at DIS to create an environment that is not only rigorous academically but compassionate as well. We want our students to be smart and kind.



Chocolate lovers unite

Seoul Salon 2013 runs from Jan. 17-20.

By Groove Staff / Photos courtesy Salon du Chocolat

There will be exhibits by chocolatiers, patissiers, ice cream makers, growers, producing countries, manufacturers of raw cocoa and producers of other chocolate-related products.

➤ For the first time ever, the world's largest event dedicated to chocolate is coming to Korea. Thousands of lovers of chocolate, chocolatiers and patissiers will descend on the COEX convention center in southern Seoul from Jan. 17 to Jan. 20 for the Salon du Chocolat.

Growers, producing countries, manufacturers of cocoa, chocolatiers, patissiers and producers of other chocolate-related products have contributed to the reputation of this event and its expansion throughout the world for the past 19 years, according to its website.

The numbers don't lie: Over 3.5 million visitors on five continents have visited.

At Seoul Salon 2013, there will be exhibits by chocolatiers, patissiers, ice cream makers, growers, producing countries, manufacturers of raw cocoa, and producers of other chocolate-related products.

One of the aims of the Salon du Chocolat is to bridge the gap between producing countries and consuming countries, as well as cocoa farmers and chocolate makers. In fact, anyone with a passion for chocolate, whether it's a passion of love or business, is invited to attend on Jan. 17.

Another goal for the conference is to untangle the "universe of chocolate." To do so, there will be performances by artists from countries that produce chocolate. There will also be educational conferences and exhibitions.

There will be four main programs at Seoul Salon 2013: The Cocoa Show is described as a vibrant space for meetings and exchanges in the heart of Seoul Salon 2013. It will feature the song, dance, rituals and traditions of cocoa-producing countries. It will include a chocolate fashion show.

The second program is called the Choco Demo, where world-famous chefs, chocolatiers and patissiers will present their best chocolate recipes.

Chocoland, the third program, is designed for children. Kids get an opportunity to wear a chef's hat and apron and make their own chocolate.

The final program is one of the most anticipated: There will be a chocolate seminar.

Salon du Chocolat is open to all visitors — business and public. Tickets cost 15,000 apiece and the ticket office will open until 4 p.m. daily.

Pre-registration is currently available through their website.

Getting there

COEX is located in the World Trade Center Complex in Gangnam District south of the Han River in Seoul. To get there by subway, go to Samseong Station, Line 2, or go to Cheongdam Station, Line 7.

Dates

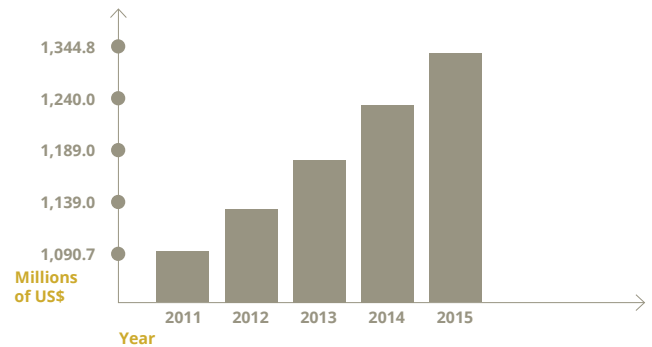
The Salon du Chocolat runs from Jan. 17 to Jan. 20.

Online

For more information, go to <http://salonduchocolat.co.kr> or email info@salonduchocolat.co.kr.

Market value forecast (in millions of US\$)

In 2015, the South Korean confectionary market is expected to have a value of \$1.33 billion, which is an increase of 23.3 percent from 2011. That gives it an annual compounded growth rate of 4.3 percent.



Korean confectionary market makeup

Chocolate is the largest segment of the confectionary market in Korea, accounting for 62.8 percent of the market value.

Sugar (18.5%)

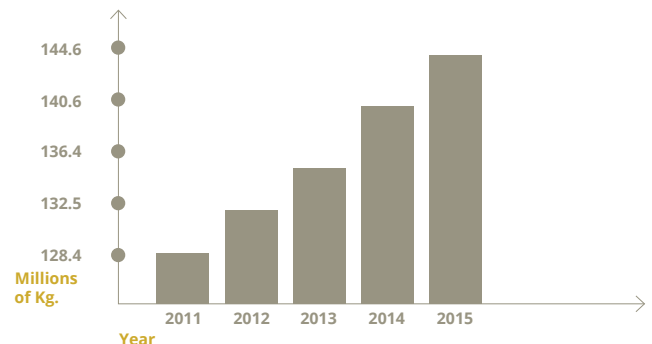
Gum (18.6%)

Chocolate (62.8%)

100%

Korean chocolate market (in millions of kg)

Chocolate shipments have soared since 2010, rising almost 25 million kilograms.



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063

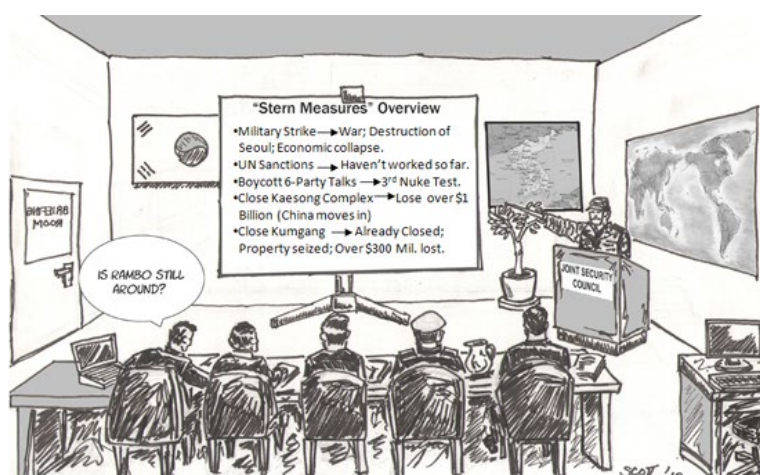


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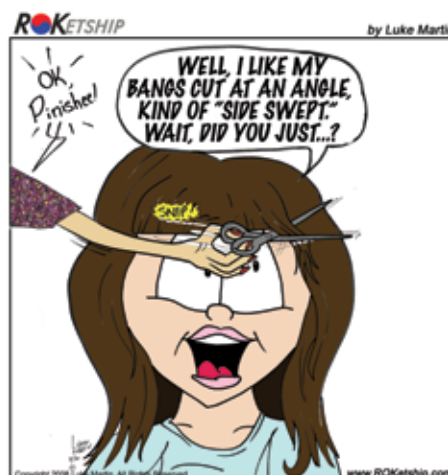
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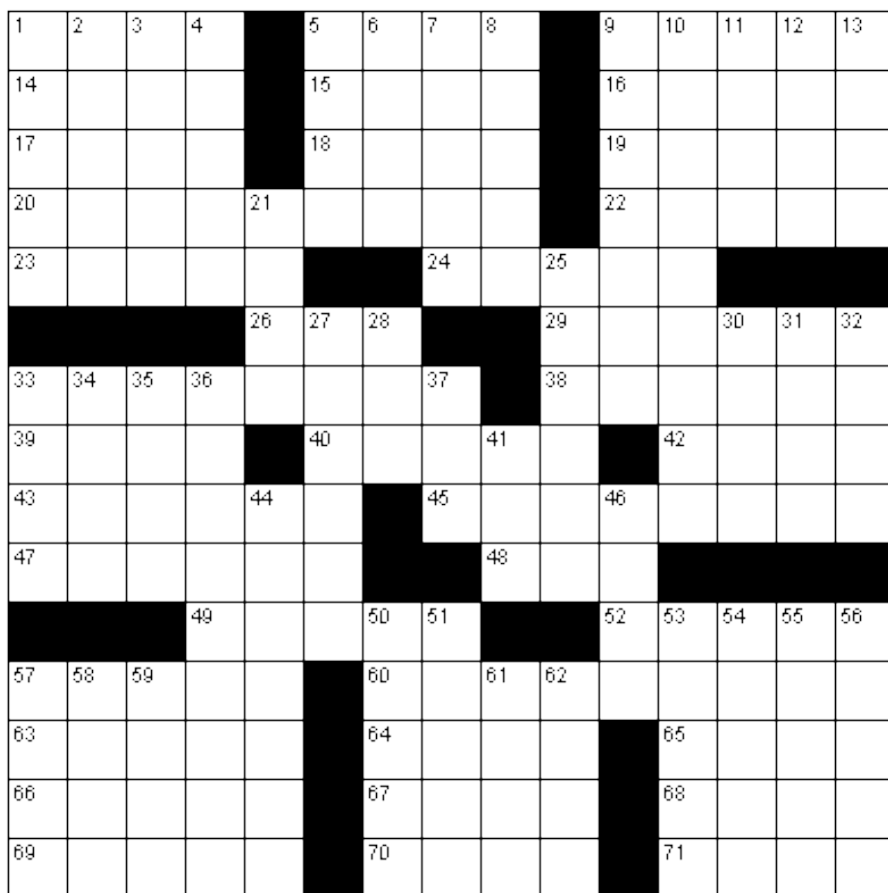


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Games

Crossword . Sudoku

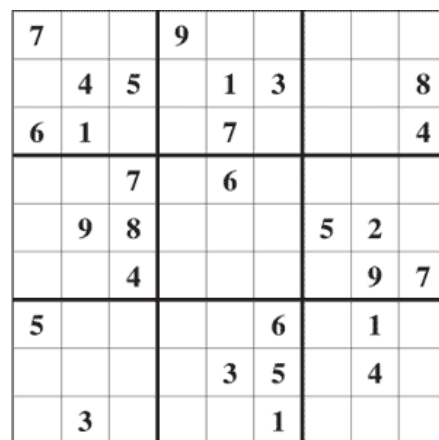
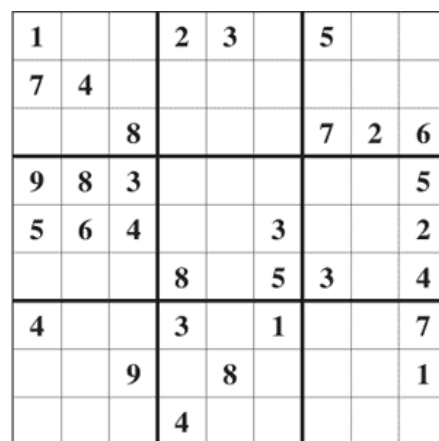


Across

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. It smells | 26. Alien Life Form | 57. Not our |
| 5. Expectorated | 29. Haphazard | 60. Rock from space |
| 9. Second planet from the sun | 33. Lodgers | 63. Moses' brother |
| 14. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology) | 38. Utter monotonously and repetitively | 64. Flair |
| 15. Old stories | 39. Look at flirtatiously | 65. Largest continent |
| 16. Run off to marry | 40. Flying honker | 66. Call |
| 17. Assist | 42. Excretory opening | 67. Richly adorn |
| 18. Monster | 43. Cancel | 68. Apartment payment |
| 19. Part of a joint | 45. Unmelodious | 69. Impudent |
| 20. Paddlewheeler | 47. A church elder | 70. Cards with just one symbol |
| 22. Alter | 48. And so on | 71. Products of human creativity |
| 23. Cubic meter | 49. An English dynasty | |
| 24. Seacoast | 52. Severe | |

Down

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Approaches | 28. To and ____ | 55. An unbroken period of time |
| 2. Path around the sun | 30. Completed | 56. Warms |
| 3. Strainer | 31. Burden | 57. Faucets |
| 4. Aromatic compound | 32. Untidiness | 58. Laugh |
| 5. Slovenly person | 33. 007 | 59. Greek god of love |
| 6. Jump up and down | 34. Arch type | 61. Story |
| 7. Wall hanging | 35. Seaweed | 62. Concludes |
| 8. What we chew with | 36. Responses | |
| 9. Former military man | 37. Boozier | |
| 10. Primary | 41. Take to court | |
| 11. Not a single one | 44. Tournament | |
| 12. Once ____ a time | 46. Reflected sound | |
| 13. Transmit | 50. Greek last letter | |
| 21. Absorb written material | 51. Museum piece | |
| 25. Acquaint | 53. Palm cockatoo | |
| 27. Fable | 54. Stair part | |



How to play

Sudoku requires no calculation or arithmetic skills. It is essentially a game of placing numbers in squares, using very simple rules of logic and deduction.

Objective

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.



Photo Challenge

This month's challenge: Dance



Winner: Paul Youn

Shot in: Hongdae Club Vera V-Hall | Exif Info: 24mm
1/250 | f2.8 | ISO 3200

Compete in the Photo Challenge for a chance to win a 50,000 won voucher from Kasa Camera. Go to the Seoul Photo Club's website for more information.

www.flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub

Horoscopes

December 2012



Aries / March 20 - April 20

Stick to your guns if you believe in a cause and don't let yourself be swayed with what some people consider "practical considerations." In business deals, be cautious about signing your name or giving someone the go-ahead until you know all the facts. Romantic attraction to a desirable Leo could prove very exciting.



Libra / September 24 - October 23

Let yourself go wild for a day or two. Indulge a few whims and spend some of your mad money. But don't let it become a habit. You need a fling now and then, but you should strive to buckle down hard in between them. A good chance at a promotion or new job could be lost if you appear to be too much of a gadabout.



Taurus / April 21 - May 21

A long vacation trip, possibly involving water, could be on the horizon for you. Take people at their word, but then make sure that they live up to it. Office procedures could be improved by some of your ideas if you will make the move to get them started. Look for correspondence or other messages from a long-time sweetheart.



Scorpio / October 24 - November 22

Give serious thought to changing your lifestyle to make room for a loving and gentle Leo. Should you decide to do this, plan on a lengthy relationship, as this could be a very serious affair. In business, you could make a killing if you just use your intelligence and make use of common knowledge.



Gemini / May 22 - June 21

Steer away from romantic involvement with another Gemini. They can often be good friends, but seldom make happy lovers. Exercise your right to speak your piece, particularly in a family or close business relationship. Avoid the error of trying to live other people's lives for them. It is time to shine brightly in your community.



Sagittarius / November 23 - December 21

When collecting an old debt, it might be wise for you to make sure you pay one at the same time. Offer a young person the chance to benefit from your experience, but don't be put off if they refuse it. A new love or the renewal of an old one could make your life brighter for awhile — but don't depend on it lasting forever.



Cancer / June 22 - July 22

Maintain your self-respect by refusing to accept unearned money, even when someone attempts to thrust it on you. Home life could be more pleasant if you get rid of the idea that you are the boss. Learn to share responsibility with others and you may find the load is much lighter.



Capricorn / December 22 - January 19

Good times are in store for you, both at the office and in your romantic life. Keep a smile on your face and avoid being cross or testy for no particular reason. In dealing with colleagues on a touchy situation, allow others to contribute, but try to keep your own hand in, as your experience may be needed.



Leo / July 23 - August 23

In planning a quiet weekend with your loved one, make sure that at least one person knows where to reach you in case of emergencies. Job opportunities could abound for you now, but you might be wiser to stay with the one you have, as unexpected promotions could be already in the mill. Try to keep your social life to a minimum.



Aquarius / January 20 - February 18

Accept what can't be avoided, but try to do it with a smile instead of a frown. Compromise is not always a dirty word and you might profit by adding it to your vocabulary. Physical exercise and improved health habits could solve a major problem for you, but don't try diagnosing other people unless you have a physician's license.



Virgo / August 24 - September 23

Get up off your duff and quit wasting time. Your ability to turn out first-rate creative work has never been sharper, but you may not realize it because of sloppy work habits and an ingrained laziness. In romantic situations involving a married person, you would be wise to walk lightly and avoid becoming deeply involved.



Pisces / February 19 - March 19

The good deeds of a friend may prove much more helpful to you in the long run than the flattering words of one who has his own axe to grind. Operate out in the open in romantic affairs as much as possible, because there are those who would like to have information about your affairs that could benefit them at a later time.

Sheraton Grande Walkerhill

Flamenco Dinner Show

In December, Sheraton Grande Walkerhill introduces the top-end dinner show Carmen Mota's Fuego, the authentic Spanish Flamenco. This new concept will run from Dec. 17 through Dec. 23. Carmen Mota, the legendary Flamenco choreographer, and Wayne Fowkes, the director for long-run musical Notre-Dame de Paris collaborated to make Fuego.

Served with the dinner show will be Spanish Jamon (ham), wine, Spanish royal cuisines, etc.

Inquiries & reservation: (02) 455-5000



Somerset Palace Seoul

2012 SPS Golf Event

The SPS Golf Event was held on Nov. 16 at Rexfield Country Club. Ascott Limited and Shinyoung Ltd hosted the event. Ascott Limited, the largest global serviced residence owner-operator in the Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region, and Shinyoung Ltd. Jointly operate Somerset Palace Seoul. Ambassadors to Korea and Somerset Palace Seoul's residents enjoyed a day on the golf course.



Lotte Hotel Busan

Winter Love Story with UNICEF

Lotte Busan offers a one-night holiday package, Winter Love Story with UNICEF. Each package includes a night in a Deluxe room, a stuffed animal and other gifts. It is from 190,000 won to 280,000 (tax and service charges excluded) and includes free internet use.

Guests also have the option of taking a yacht tour, night tour, or a guided city tour.

Lotte Busan will match the revenue earned from this and other packagea in a donation to UNICEF.

For reservations and inquiry, contact 051-810-1100.



Novotel Ambassador Busan

Ventanas & Seascapes Christmas Special

Novotel Ambassador Busan is preparing special Christmas menu. The steak and seafood restaurant Ventanas will offer two types of course meals on Dec. 24 and 25. They will include turkey and all the fixings, plus Christmas cookies. The price starts from 120,000 won (subject to 10 percent service charge and 10 percent tax). The premium buffet Seascapes will offer a special holiday meal from Dec. 21-31 for 60,000 won (10 percent service charge and 10 percent tax included).

For inquiries and reservation, contact 051-743-1234



Paradise Hotel Busan

Winter holidays with spa and jazz

In December, the Jazz Spa Package With YAMAHA includes free entrance to the Cimer ocean spa for two adults and two children. It includes the famous Cimer Honey Bath for ladies. Live jazz performances, snacks and wine will be served. Paradise Hotel Busan also offers Leo's Winter Tour Program, consisting of a night tour and movie set tour. The package starts at 190,000 won (tax and service charges excluded). For reservations and inquiries, contact **051-749-2111~3**.



Club Med Korea

Winter Getaway

Club Med, premium all-inclusive resorts, is offering packages for fixed-date departures between December and February. The packages are available for Club Med Bali, Phuket, Bintan Island and Cherating Beach. Prices include return flights, accommodation, worldwide and traditional cuisine, open bar service, sports and activities, Kids Club (4-17 years old), and night entertainment. The packages start from 1.29 million won. Book online and get a 2 percent discount. For more information and reservations, contact **(02) 3452-0123**.



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‘Tis the season — for Starbucks

Toffee Nut, Peppermint lattes, holiday blends & diary are back

➤ If you can't get through the holidays without one of Starbucks' special drinks, you're not alone. This year, the franchise is bringing back its popular holiday Frappuccino and the espresso-based, steamed milk lattes, Toffee Nut and Peppermint, which are topped off with sweetened whipped cream and dark chocolate curls.

If you're into the more traditional caffeinated beverages, Starbucks is also providing five holiday coffee blends and three festive treats.

Perfect for gift giving, there will be 30 different

mugs and tumblers for sale at each of the 500-plus locations nationwide.

The seasonal coffee blends, first introduced in 1984, are available for home brewing. They go for 18,000 won per 250g bag. Seasonal favorites are available in-store again this season, including Starbucks Coffee Sampler, which comes with Christmas Blend Espresso Roast and Via Ready Brew Christmas Blend.

The festive treat Marron Mont Blanc, which has double layers of soft sponge cake and chestnuts,

and the famous Panettone and Cranberry Nut Danish have been specially designed to complement your favorite dinks. They are available throughout the holidays.

Also back this holiday season is Starbucks 2013 diary, which you can redeem at no cost by collecting 17 drink stamps. The diary is made with recycled paper and comes with a variety of Starbucks coupons.

Starbucks will also launch a campaign to support local communities and charities this holiday season.

BlackBerry

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SK telecom

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The new BlackBerry® Bold™

Capturing Korea

Capturing Korea is a monthly photography column dedicated to bringing you the sights of Korea. Some scenes will be off the beaten path, settings you won't find in guidebooks or on government tourism websites, while others will be not-so-secret. All will be beautiful in their own way and presented through the eyes of photographers that live in the area.
Email mattlamers@groovekorea.com.



THE FRONTIER PAJU



The Civilian Control Line is as far north as most people can go. The CLL forms a buffer zone between the Demilitarized Zone and the rest of Paju — ranging from 5 to 25 kilometers from the southern boundary of the DMZ. The only civilians permitted access are those who own land or live there. Cons to living across the CLL include a curfew and building restrictions. wPros: Men born there do not have to serve in the military.



Military fortifications, lakes, mountains and shopping

Photos by Matthew Lamers

Situated at South Korea's northern border, Paju is one of the most militarized cities in the world. Drive in any direction in this 600 square kilometer city for more than 15 minutes and you're bound to pass a military installation, be it a base or an artillery encampment. Strategically important roads are booby trapped to prevent passage if war breaks out, rivers are lined with barbed wire and sentry posts and dozens of military bases are scattered across its landscape.

But there's more to Paju than barbed wire and army bases. It's a sparsely populated city that has plenty of hiking trails and some small lakes. More recently, newly built shopping centers have been drawing large numbers of Seoulites north. Cultural and architectural points of interest are Heyri Art Village, Paju Book City, Bogwangsa Temple and the UNESCO heritage site Jangneung.

Shopping: Lotte Premium Outlet and Paju Premium Outlet

Art & dining: Provence Village, Heyri Art Village

Sightseeing: Paju Book City, Imjingak, Bogwangsa Temple, Dorasan Observatory, infiltration tunnels, Jangneung.





Called "tank stoppers," these 10-foot-tall concrete pillars jut out of the ground, creating man-made barriers intended to slow invading North Korean forces. They're a few kilometers long in some places, bisecting farmers' fields. In most cases, farmers simply plant around them.







Paju is Korea's fastest growing municipality, due to LG's billion-dollar expansion in the city. Still, Paju has one of the country's lowest population densities, with only about 600 people per square kilometer on average. That leaves the city's 300,000 inhabitants lots of space to explore its numerous mountains.

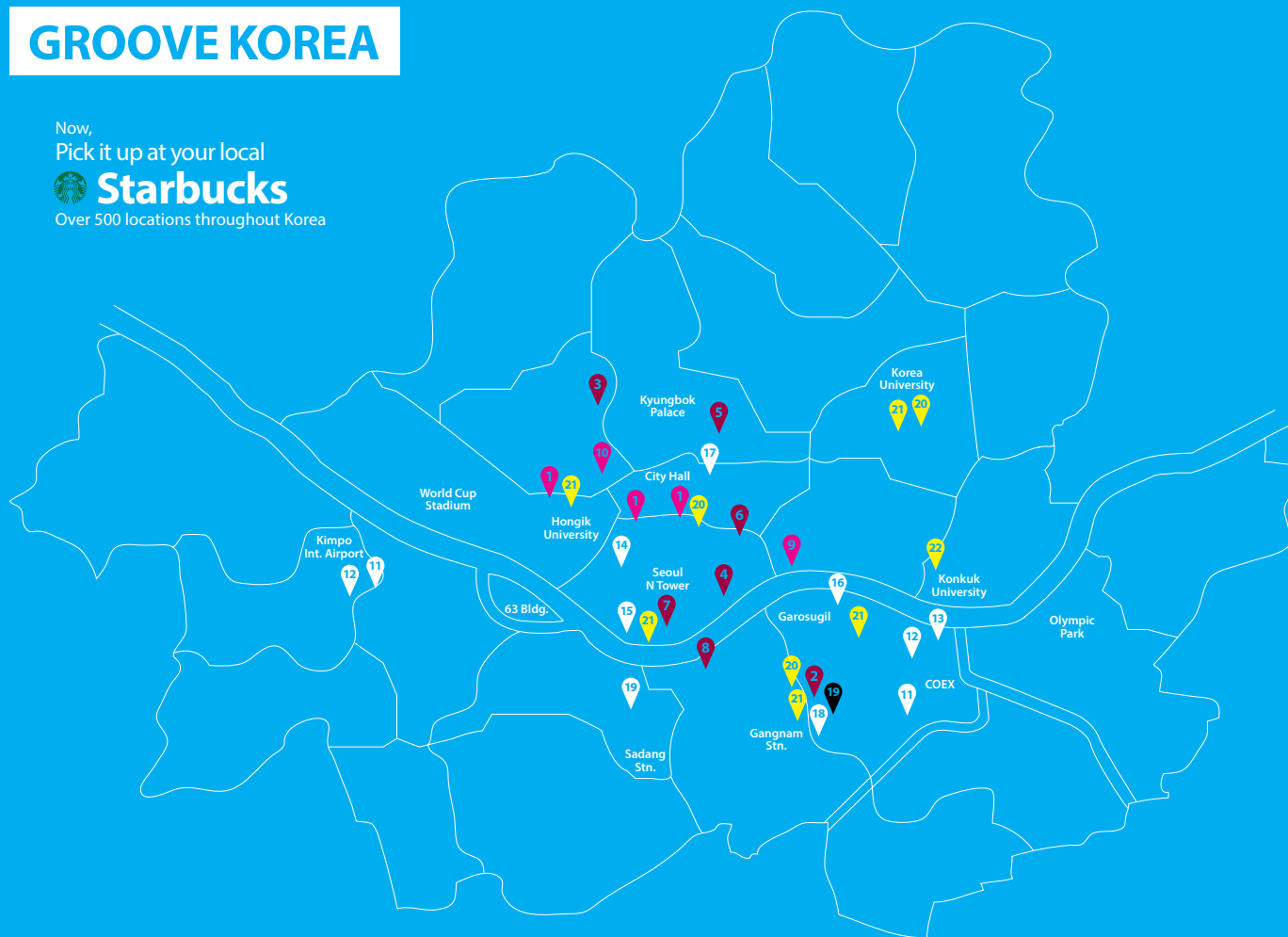




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| <p>4 IP BOUTIQUE HOTEL
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| <p>5 SOMERSET PALACE
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Itaewon

- ☪ 3 Alley Pub
- ☪ All American Diner
- ☪ Amigo
- ☪ Bar Bliss
- ☪ BBB Korea
- ☪ Berlin
- ☪ Bistro Praha
- ☪ Brick
- ☪ Bungalow
- ☪ CasAntonio
- ☪ Cold Stone Creamery
- ☪ Copacabana
- ☪ Cup & Bowl
- ☪ Don Valley
- ☪ Flying Pan
- ☪ Gecko's Garden
- ☪ Gecko's Terrace
- ☪ Gobble n' Go
- ☪ Healing Hands
- ☪ Hollywood Grill
- ☪ Hillside
- ☪ Holy Chow
- ☪ International Clinic
- ☪ Itaewon Global Center Village
- ☪ La Bocca
- ☪ La Cigale Montmartre
- ☪ Loco Loca
- ☪ Meili's Deli
- ☪ Moghul
- ☪ My Thai
- ☪ Nashville
- ☪ Neal's Yard
- ☪ Old Stompers
- ☪ Pattaya
- ☪ Quiznos
- ☪ Rocky Mountain Tavern
- ☪ Santorini
- ☪ Seoul Club
- ☪ Skywellness Chiropractic
- ☪ Smokey Saloon
- ☪ Solution
- ☪ Sortino's
- ☪ Taco Amigo
- ☪ Tony's Aussie Bar
- ☪ What The Book
- ☪ Wolfhound
- ☪ Zelen

HBC, Kyungridan & Yongsan-gu

- ☪ Buddha's Belly
- ☪ Chakraa
- ☪ Chili Chili Tacos
- ☪ Craftworks
- ☪ Green Banana
- ☪ HBC Gogitjib
- ☪ Hillside Pub
- ☪ Hwang Mi Seo foot care
- ☪ Istanbul
- ☪ Itaewon Animal Hospital
- ☪ Jacoby's
- ☪ Jamba Juice
- ☪ Latte King
- ☪ Lazy Sue
- ☪ Le Vert
- ☪ Naked Grill
- ☪ Phillies
- ☪ Phillies Steak
- ☪ Res2Go
- ☪ Standing Coffee

- ☪ TG Brunch
- ☪ Thunder Burger
- ☪ Yongsan Recycle Center
- ☪ Yoons' Oriental Clinic
- ☪ Café JeJe
- ☪ Dojo
- ☪ Noxa Lounge

Gangnam, Sinsa & Chungdam areas

- ☪ AOC
- ☪ Baram plastic surgery
- ☪ Big Rock
- ☪ California Pizza Kitchen
- ☪ CK Chiropractic
- ☪ Dos Tacos
- ☪ Dublin Irish Pub
- ☪ Dunhill
- ☪ Hushu dental & skin clinic
- ☪ Jaseng Oriental Hospital
- ☪ Nova Skin Clinic
- ☪ Once in a blue moon
- ☪ Smart Dental Clinic
- ☪ TengTeng Skin Clinic
- ☪ Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic

Konkuk University

- ☪ Café 4B
- ☪ Monomo

Hongdae & Sinchon

- ☪ aA museum café
- ☪ Agio
- ☪ Beer O'clock
- ☪ Castle Praha
- ☪ Dos Tacos
- ☪ Hair & Joy
- ☪ Mike's Cabin
- ☪ On The Border
- ☪ Tin Pan
- ☪ Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic
- ☪ Zen Art Center

BUNDANG & YONGIN

- ☪ Underground
- ☪ Batman bar
- ☪ Travelers

BUSAN

- ☪ Basement
- ☪ Breeze Bum's
- ☪ Fuzzy Navel (Haeundae)
- ☪ Kino Eye (Daeyeon-dong)
- ☪ Mojo (Jangjeon-dong)
- ☪ Rock N Roll (Bujeon-dong)
- ☪ Taco Family (Jangjeon-dong)
- ☪ The SKOOL (Woo-dong)
- ☪ Wolfhound (Haeundae)

DAEGU

- ☪
- ☪
- ☪
- ☪

INCHEON

- ☪ Fog City International Cafe

DAEJEON

- ☪ Cantina

ILSAN

- ☪ Big Bread
- ☪ Yonsei Joshua Clinic

JEONJU

- ☪ Jeonju English Center

JEJU

- ☪ Zapata's (Jeju city)
- ☪ Jeju tourism offices

CHUNGJU

- ☪ Road King

FRANCHISES

- ☪ Starbucks
- ☪ Dos Tacos
- ☪ Jamba Juice
- ☪ California Pizza Kitchen
- ☪ HBC Gogitjib
- ☪ Breeze Bum's
- ☪ Wolfhound
- ☪ Cold Stone Creamery
- ☪ Quiznos

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- ☪ Incheon International Air Ports
- ☪ Kimpo Airports
- ☪ Korea Tourism Organization
- ☪ Seoul City Hall
- ☪ Daegu City Hall
- ☪ Gangnam-gu Tourism Office
- ☪ Seoul Global Center
- ☪ TBS eFM station

HOTELS

- ☪ Lotte Hotel Seoul
- ☪ Lotte Hotel Busan
- ☪ Grand Hilton
- ☪ Novotel Ambassador Gangnam
- ☪ Westin Chosun Hotel
- ☪ Grand Hyatt Hotel Seoul
- ☪ Somerset Palace Seoul
- ☪ JW Marriott Hotel Seoul
- ☪ Astoria Hotel (Myung-dong)
- ☪ Hamilton Hotel
- ☪ Novotel Ambassador Busan
- ☪ The Ritz-Carlton Seoul
- ☪ Millennium Hilton
- ☪ Oakwood Premier Coex Center
- ☪ Han Suites Serviced Residences
- ☪ Hyatt Regency Incheon
- ☪ The MVL (Yeosu)
- ☪ Hotel Inter-Bulgo (Daegu)
- ☪ Sea Cloud Hotel Busan
- ☪ InterContinental Alpensia Resort (Pyeongchang)

HOSPITALS & HEALTH CLINICS

- ☪ Lee Moon Won Oriental Clinic (Chungdam-dong)
- ☪ Seoul National Univ. Gangnam Health Center (Yeoksam-dong)
- ☪ Gangnam Severance Hospital (Dogok-dong)
- ☪ Wooidul Spine Hospital (Chungdam-dong)
- ☪ MizMedi Women's Hospital (Daechi-dong)
- ☪ Samsung Medical Center (Ilwon-dong)
- ☪ NOVA Skin Clinic (Gangnam stn)
- ☪ Oracle Skin Clinic (Gangnam stn)
- ☪ UPennlvy Dental Clinic (Ichon-dong)
- ☪ ESARANG Dental Clinic (Gongduk-dong)
- ☪ Yein Dental Clinic (City Hall)
- ☪ A Plus Dental (Shinsa-dong)
- ☪ TUFT Denatal (Samsung-dong)
- ☪ TengTeng Skin Clinic (Shinsa-dong)
- ☪ CK Chiropractic (Nonhyeon-dong)
- ☪ Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic (Hongdae & Shinsa-dong)
- ☪ Healing Hands (Itaewon)

US ARMY BASES

- ☪ Yongsan Garrison
- ☪ Pyeongtaek Camp Humphreys
- ☪ Osan AB
- ☪ Chinhae Naval Base
- ☪ Daegu Camp Walker

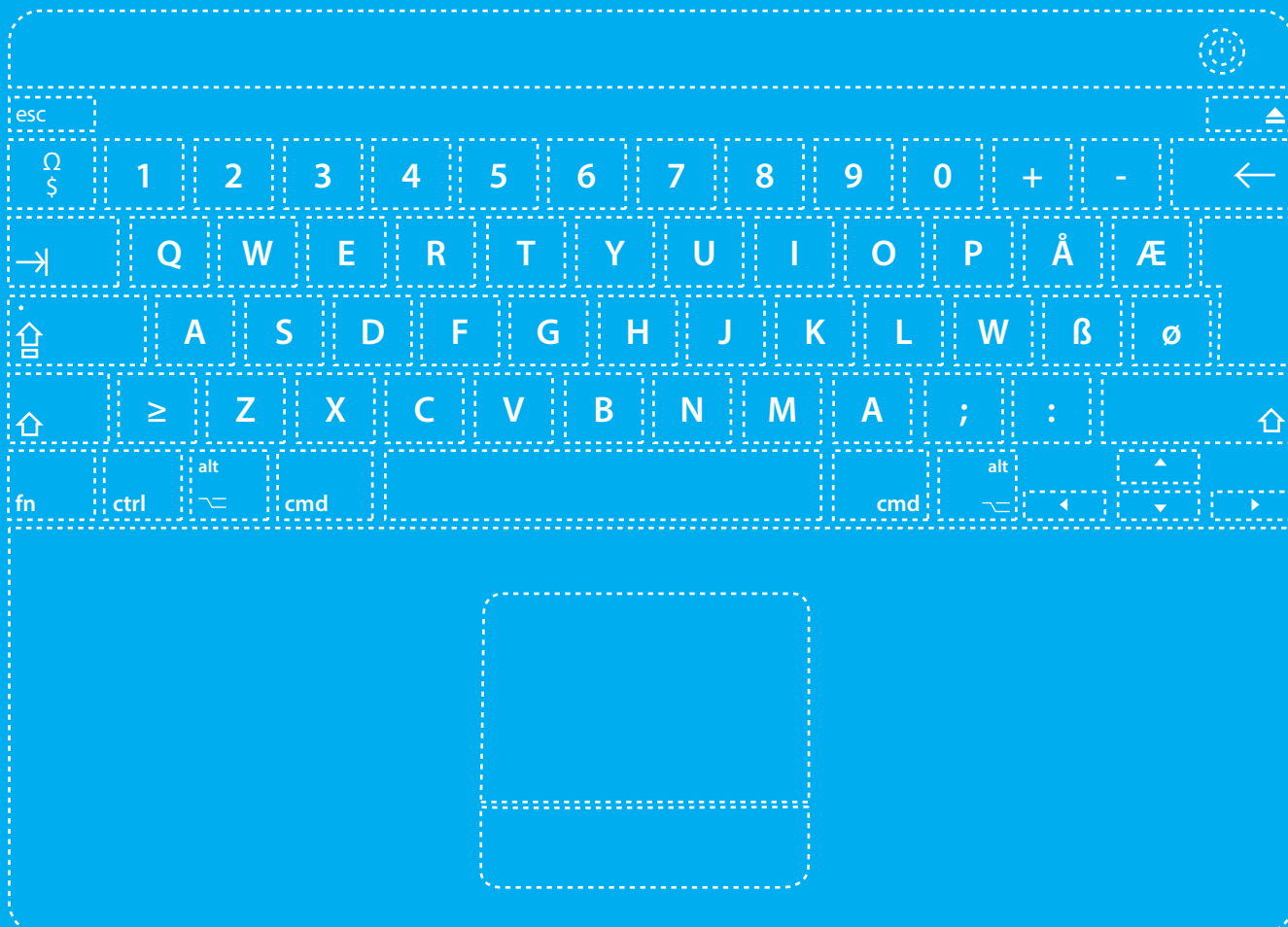
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Listings



International clubs in Seoul

To add your club to this list, e-mail mattlamers@groovekorea.com. — Ed.

Royal Asiatic Society

raskb@koreanet.net / www.raskb.com

This non-profit organization offers lectures about Korea's history and culture, while also arranging tours to locations throughout the country.

The Australia and New Zealand Association

events@anzakorea.com / www.anzakorea.com

Catch up with them at the Grand Hyatt Paris Bar from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 20. Members are charged 12,000 won. Non-members pay 17,000 won.

The British Association of Seoul

basseoul@yahoo.co.uk / www.britishseoul.com

BASS is a vibrant and active social group for British expatriates and all nationalities. We seek to enhance our members' experience in Seoul, and provide hope and financial assistance to Korean charities in need.

Seoul International Women's Association

president@siwapage.com / www.siwapage.com

SIWA is open to women of all nationalities. Its monthly Coffee Mornings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Among its many other activities are twice-yearly classes for members by members referred to as Interest Groups.

Busan International Women's Association

biwadove@yahoo.co.uk / www.biwakorea.com

This association extends friendship and support to international women living in the Busan-Kyungsang-Namdo area. The group meets at Starbucks opposite the Busan Aquarium on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Members and non-members are welcome.

Seoul Writers Workshop

seoulwriters@gmail.com / seoulwriters.wordpress.com

SWW members meet every two weeks in order to read and critique each other's work. The aim is to provide opinions and constructive criticism. Work is distributed before workshops.

Helping Others Prosper through English

bedavinci@naver.com / www.alwayshope.or.kr

HOPE's goals are to empower children through education and to open doors of opportunity for tomorrow's leaders. HOPE is one of the largest volunteer-based foreigner organizations in Korea and is comprised of both foreign and Korean staff.

KOTESOL

www.kotesol.org

Korea Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is a professional organization for teachers of English. Our main goals are to assist members in their self-development, and improve ELT in Korea.

Overseas Chinese Women's Club

<http://ocwckr.wordpress.com>

This club meets monthly and is open to anyone interested in learning about Chinese culture and making new friends. Conversation is in Mandarin.




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Coffee for the Soul, Soup for the Body
Homemade Style Soups for Take-Out!

Mon-Sun 8am-10pm

COFFEE
Strong Taste & Rich Flavor Beans roasted in Italy
Starting at 3,000won

SOUP
Homemade Soup with the Best Ingredients.
Provence Vegetable, Cream of Mushroom, Sweet Potato with Maple

SANDWICH
All served on Breads freshly baked in-store.

CUP & BOWL
Noksapyeong Subway stn. KEB Itaewon Post Office Itaewon Subway stn. McDONALD'S

Warm-hearted Overseas Remittance Event Exclusively for Foreign Customers!



面向外国顾客的温馨
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ATM海外送金優遇サービス



Dịch vụ ưu đãi dành cho
khách hàng người nước
ngoài khi chuyển tiền
quốc tế bằng máy ATM



Telah Tersedia Layanan
Kiriman Uang Ke Luar
Negeri melalui ATM Yang
terbaik & ramah-tamah bagi
Nasabah Asing!



การโอนเงินระหว่างประเทศ มีบริ
การการใช้ด้วยตู้เอทีเอ็ม สำหรับ
ลูกค้าต่างชาติเป็นพิเศษ!



ATM remittance is available in your language

Benefits of Shinhan Bank ATM Overseas Remittance

Convenient overseas remittance - no need to visit a bank branch!

Enjoy 50% off the exchange rate spread and 50% off the remittance fee when making an ATM overseas remittance.

ATM service is available in English, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai and Korean.

Shinhan Bank ATM Overseas Remittance Method

- Step 1** Visit your local Shinhan Bank branch with your passport and Alien Registration Card.
- Step 2** Open a bank account and get a cash card or check card.
- Step 3** Designate Shinhan Bank as your primary foreign exchange transaction bank and register your beneficiary's bank and account information.
- Step 4** Make overseas remittances to your beneficiary at Shinhan Bank ATMs.

Hot news from Shinhan Bank

You can open a "Time Deposit" or a "Installment account" online once you have registered for online banking in person at a Shinhan bank branch.

You earn additional interest when you open these accounts online!

If you have any questions, just contact the Shinhan Bank Foreign Language Call Center at 1577-8380 (Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm)



Together, a better tomorrow
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